

NEWS ROUNDUP

Over 100 Mirror journalists to go

Mirror Group Newspapers is to dismiss most of the 136 journalists on its three titles in Manchester, staff were told yesterday. Journalists on the *Daily Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror* and *The People* owned by Mr Robert Maxwell, received letters telling them of the decision to cut the staff from May 8.

Some will be offered the chance to stay or transfer to London. The company's new European daily newspaper is also recruiting, the letter says. Those leaving would receive four times the statutory redundancy pay "subject to normal working". The letter added: "We are grateful to you for your past service and regret that the dramatic change in national newspaper production has brought it to an end."

Staff fear that the number remaining in Manchester could be cut to as few as 20; and the decision has been criticized by Mr Keith Meadows, of the National Union of Journalists. "There is no logic in it. The circulation in the north has been increasing."

50 held in soccer raid

Almost 50 West Ham United and Crystal Palace football supporters were under arrest yesterday after more than 250 officers took part in dawn raids across London and the Home Counties aimed at smashing a hooligan gang. The arrests were the latest in an increasing number of operations up and down the country during the 1987-8 football season directed at hooliganism. Supporters of clubs in London, the Midlands and the north have been arrested this season. Yesterday's raids were the culmination of undercover investigations in east and south London.

Stab case adjourned

A youth was further remanded on conditional bail yesterday charged with the murder of Carol Baldwin, aged 13, who was stabbed in the back in a park at Northampton last month. Mr Michael Galpin, for Craig Staton, asked Northampton magistrates to lift reporting restrictions, and told them: "We are dealing here with a 17-year-old youth charged with murder and that will scar him for life. He has got a job which he cannot go to because of threats which have been made against him, his family has had to move, and yet he is innocent." A girl aged 12 has also been accused of murder. The hearing was adjourned to May 25.

Delay on ruling

A High Court judge in London yesterday adjourned until Friday his decision on whether Cleveland County Council can go ahead with its case alleging contempt of court against three newspapers for publishing articles identifying two children involved in the Cleveland sexual abuse inquiry. Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, heard submissions from the newspapers - *The Mail on Sunday*, *The Sun* and the *Mirror* - that they had no case to answer. He said that the case raised "very important problems".

Challenge to Wales TUC debate on single-union agreements

Electricians sign further no-strike deals

By Roland Rudd

The electricians' union has signed new single-union, no-strike agreements with two companies in South Wales, confounding its critics on the left who want to ban such deals.

The defiant move came on the eve of today's Wales TUC debate on whether single-union deals should be outlawed. The TUC disputes committee has ordered the electricians to withdraw from similar deals signed recently with two other companies.

The Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, which has threatened to ballot its members if the TUC draws up a new code of conduct to prevent it signing no-strike deals, may ignore the instruction, which it has described as "a sinister ploy to bleed us to death by a thousand cuts".

Mr Wyn Bevan, EETPU executive councillor, said last night that the union had secured exclusive

recognition rights at Scandinavian Sound Industry and Electronic Harnesses UK.

He said: "The policy of our union, democratically arrived at annual conference, proves yet again that workers recognize the importance of resolving differences with management through arbitration."

The two companies which signed the no-strike agreements said that the EETPU was chosen to represent the workforce because it offered compulsory binding pendulum arbitration.

Electronic Harnesses, which manufactures electrical appliances in Mid Glamorgan, is hoping to expand its workforce from 30 to 300 within three years. Scandinavian Sound Industry, which manufactures loud speakers at Cardiff, is hoping to expand its workforce to 45 by next November.

Every worker at both companies

The TUC General Council pulled back yesterday from its threat to suspend the electricians and instead voted to "censure strongly" the union for its admitted breach of TUC directives in the News International move to Wapping, east London.

Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, was supported by 27 votes to 13 to censure the union at the General Council meeting next month, after legal advice that a temporary

suspension was against TUC rules. Mr Willis said: "It is a very severe penalty for a trade union affiliated to the TUC to be censured by its own equals and representatives of the whole trade union movement."

Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary of the EETPU, said that having prevented the TUC from suspending the union on legal grounds it would not "co-operate with an inadmissible penalty under TUC rules".

that are negotiated with employers to enforce no-strike deals".

It goes further than past motions critical of the electricians by asking the council to take "whatever action is necessary" to prevent the "minority of unions" from signing strike-free clauses.

Mr Bevan said: "I have no intention of being dictated to by the likes of these moronic extremists. I promise them that we shall go on

signing no-strike deals whether they like it or not. If we were ever prevented from signing them we would simply leave the TUC."

The electricians have put forward their own motion, calling on the movement to create a more receptive public opinion of unions to mobilize the big number of workers who are non-unionized.

However, the motion faces stiff opposition after the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union tabled an amendment calling on unions to "acknowledge in principle and practice the TUC guidelines on no-strike clauses".

Wales TUC officials disclosed that there had been behind-the-scenes moves to get Nup and the MSF to withdraw the motion and amendment in the interests of unity. If the unions refuse, they are expected to be carried with the support of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Education Bill's critics join forces on religion

By Nicholas Wood and Sheila Gunn

Backbench Conservative peers are to join forces with opposition parties in a powerful attempt to force key changes in the Government's Education Reform Bill next week.

They hope to make religious education lessons predominantly Christian in a move aimed at halting the drift towards syllabuses covering all faiths and atheism.

In a separate challenge led by Lord Joseph, the former Secretary of State for Education and Science, an attempt will be made to give schools the right to pick and choose from the proposed compulsory national curriculum of 11 subjects.

If successful, both moves threaten to embarrass considerably Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science.

A government spokesman told the House of Lords in February that Britain was no longer a predominantly Christian country and that schools reflected the multi-faith nature of the country.

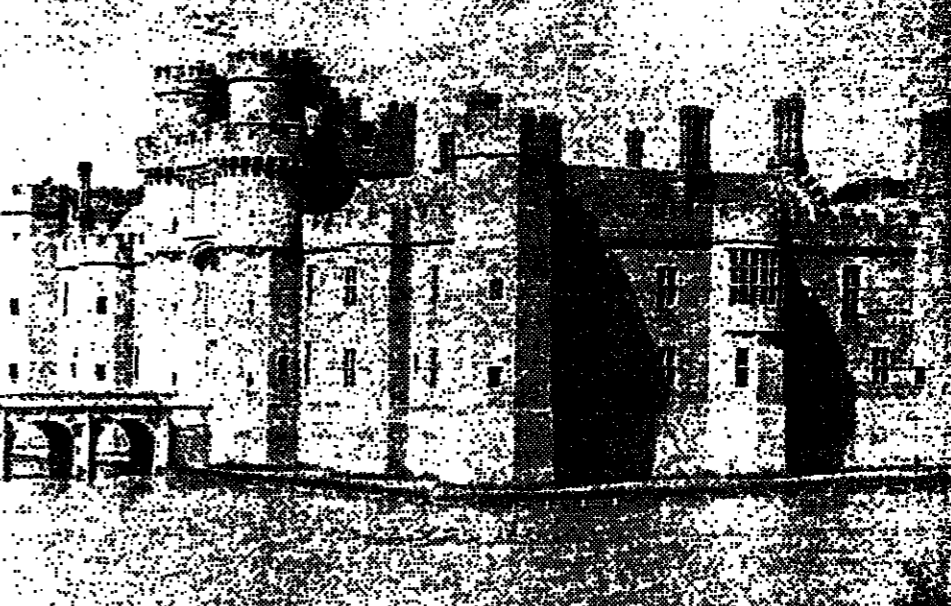
However, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who has held private meetings with leading Conservatives over the content of religious education teaching, is said to be "highly supportive" of the effort to clarify the law and compel schools to give pupils a largely Christian grounding.

Government sources said yesterday that the stance adopted by bishops would be a key factor in determining the outcome.

The attempt will inevitably be interpreted in some quarters as an attack on ethnic minority religions. One insider said that it would be difficult for the Government to go further than the established Church in insisting on the teaching of Christianity.

The twin assault on the Government's plans will be launched next Tuesday in the Lords at the start of the committee stage scrutiny of the 198-clause Bill, the biggest educational upheaval since the 1944 Act.

Castle for sale at £10m



Herstmonceux Castle, the home of the Royal Greenwich Observatory, is up for sale at around £10 million.

The 900-year-old moated castle, near Battle in East Sussex, was put on the market by the Government's Science and Engineering Research Council.

Listed in the Domesday Book, where it was valued at just £1, Herstmonceux has been the home of the observatory since 1946, when it

was bought by the Admiralty for £76,000.

Greenwich Mean Time, the international time-zone system, has been set by clocks housed at Herstmonceux.

The observatory moved from Greenwich because deteriorating atmospheric conditions in the capital caused by pollution interfered with astronomical observations. Most of the observatory's work is now carried out overseas.

Harbour board cuts 100 jobs

Dover hit by effect of strike

By David Sapsted

A decision by Dover Harbour Board yesterday to cut its workforce by 100 as a direct result of the three-month seamen's strike illustrated the crippling effect the dispute is having on Britain's busiest ferry port.

The board, income for which derives from landing and cargo fees, has lost £2.5 million since the P&O dispute started. Losses are currently £150,000 a week.

Although the board hopes to achieve the job cuts through voluntary redundancies and natural wastage, it told its 1,000 workers yesterday that "if the dispute continues, we cannot offer indefinite guarantees of employment".

A strike by disgruntled workers would be a big blow for the docks and for Dover town, which relies on a thriving cross-Channel trade.

"A complete shutdown will be extremely serious", Mr Graham Forster, vice chairman of Dover District Council policy and resources committee, said. "It would have obvious short-term effects but could cause even more serious damage to Dover's long-term prospects."

"Apart from individual hardship and the inevitable knock-on effect on local trade,

traders have suffered a drop in takings. "People are still coming in but many are not spending as much", one supermarket manager said.

Several smaller traders are offering discounts to strikers' families and others are supplying free or cost-priced food to the two soup kitchens set up for members of the National Union of Seamen.

Up to 150 people, mainly wives and children, are fed in a kitchen set up in the Salvation Army hall in the town centre. Chiefs dismissed from the ferries cook the food.

Strikers have received only one strike payment, £50, from the union in the past 12 weeks.

One P&O seaman said: "Apart from that, my wife and two children have had to rely on £18 a week in benefit. Without the food kitchens we would starve."

Mrs Elizabeth Kaley, married to a striker, said: "I would prefer my husband to sell our house rather than accept one of the new contracts from P&O. Apart from the conditions they want to impose, I do not believe the company is paying the consideration it should to the safety of the ferries."

Since the dispute started about 2,000 pay packets have been withheld.

In Dover's High Street,

Seamen's union could lose £2.2m

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

The National Union of Seamen could lose about £2.2 million if Sealink succeeds in a High Court action to seize the union's assets because of the disruption at Dover.

That is the latest figure listed in the returns of the Certification Officer, whose report for 1987 was published last week.

In February, the NUS was fined £7,500 for defying an

injunction preventing a national strike over the Isle of Man Sealink Packet Company dispute. That three-day action is believed to have cost the union another £25,000 in legal fees and other costs.

Mr Sam McCluskie, the NUS general secretary, said at the time that he was not worried about fines or costs because he claimed his union was "skint". It emerged that the NUS total assets stood at

£2.8 million, but since then they have dropped by more than £500,000.

The latest state of the NUS shows that there were 27,457 members at the beginning of last year, 1,152 of them women. More than £1.6 million of its funds came from members' subscriptions and nearly £130,000 from investment income. Last year the union made £13,558 on the sale of investments.

Runcie optimistic on unity

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, is said to be confident the Lambeth Conference of Anglican bishops meeting in Canterbury this summer will authorize further steps towards unity with the Roman Catholic Church, church sources said yesterday.

The place of the Pope in a united church is expected to emerge as the most controversial issue.

provided his powers were scaled down.

Female ordination will be the most serious internal Anglican issue before the conference, made more pressing by the desire of Anglicans in the United States to consecrate the first woman bishop in the near future.

The Evangelical open letter said they were prepared to "contemplate" a united church headed by the Pope,

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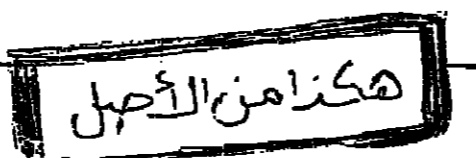
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IRA men in Maze jailbreak cleared of killing officer

By Robin Young

Sixteen men involved in the mass IRA jailbreak from Northern Ireland's top-security Maze prison were cleared yesterday of murdering a prison officer who died after being stabbed.

A total of 18 men were sentenced by Belfast Crown Court yesterday, including two of the escape team's leaders - the IRA's former officer-in-charge in the H-blocks, Brendan "Bill" McFarlane, aged 34, and the London car bomber Gerard Kelly, aged 33, who were both recaptured in Holland.

They were jailed for five years for imprisoning officers during the escape of 38 prisoners in September 1983.

The third leader, Bobby Storey, also from Belfast, was sentenced to seven years for his part in the jailbreak.

Of the 38, three have subsequently died in engagements with the security forces, and 10 are still at large. Seven are in prison in the Republic of Ireland, and one is serving a life sentence in England.

In court yesterday Henry Murray, from Lonsdale Avenue, West Belfast, was sentenced to eight years' prison on a series of charges, including one of wounding a prison officer who was shot in the leg.

The other prisoners, mostly from Belfast and Londonderry, were sentenced to terms of between three and seven years on charges which included escape, attempted escape, imprisoning officers, wounding, assault and riotous behaviour.

Kelly and McFarlane did not face escape charges

because of the terms under which they were extradited to Belfast from The Netherlands.

The other 16 were found not guilty of murdering Mr James Ferris, a prison officer who died after being stabbed with a screwdriver or chisel.

He had been suffering from a heart complaint and Lord Justice Lowry, who sentenced the men at the end of a three-month trial, said he could not be satisfied the stabbing was the cause of death.

Kelly, from Moyard Crescent, Belfast, also faced a charge of attempting to murder a prison officer but he was found not guilty along with the 16 others.

The first escaper to die was Kieran Fleming, a convicted murderer, who drowned in the Bannagh river, Co Fermanagh, in December 1984 while attempting to escape after a shoot-out with the SAS.

In April 1986, Seamus McElwaine, another convicted murderer, was killed by security forces.

On May 8 last year, Patrick McKearney, convicted of possessing firearms, was one of eight IRA men killed in an ambush by security forces. The men had been attempting to storm the RUC barracks at Loughgall with a 500lb bomb mounted in the scoop of a JCB earth-mover.

The prisoners still at large include Kevin Barry Artt, who at the time of the escape had served two months of a life sentence for the murder of the deputy governor of the Maze prison, Mr Albert Myles. Artt has been described as Britain's most wanted criminal and was

believed to be in command of an IRA unit sent to England to make another attempt on the life of Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Others still free are Terence Kirby, convicted of murder; Anthony McAister, murder; Dermot McNally, causing explosions; James Joseph Smyth, attempted murder; John Fryers, armed robbery; Seamus Campbell and James Donnelly, both possessing firearms, and Paul Brennan, possessing explosives. Donnelly and Patrick McIntyre, were both re-arrested but subsequently jumped bail.

Four escapers, Seamus and James Clarke, Anthony Kelly and Robert Russell, are serving prison sentences in the Irish Republic. Seamus Clarke and Anthony Kelly had been serving sentences for murder in the Maze, and Russell for the attempted murder of an RUC superintendent.

Paul Kane, convicted of attempted murder, was re-arrested in the Republic last November after a high-speed car chase involving a car belonging to Mr Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein MP for West Belfast.

Mr Adams and Mr Danny Morrison, Sinn Fein's director of communications, were passengers in the car when it was forced off the road. Kane is now contesting extradition to the United Kingdom, as is Dermot Finnucane who was arrested in Co Longford, last November.

Gerard McDonnell, who was in the Maze for possessing explosives, has since been arrested in the United Kingdom and is serving life for his part in the Brighton bombing.

Zoo says farewell to Chia Chia

By Ruth Glehill

Chia-Chia, London Zoo's star attraction, is going to Mexico in August, so that for the first time in 50 years the zoo will be without a giant panda.

Chia-Chia, who is unlikely to return, will be put to mate with Mexico City Zoo's seven-year-old panda Tobui, and there is no certainty that any resultant young will come to Britain.

The project by London Zoo to export 16-year-old Chia-Chia is to come under close scrutiny by the World Wildlife Fund in the United States, where it is intended to exhibit Chia-Chia in Cincinnati Zoo for three months on the way to Mexico City to raise money to build his new home there.

The fund is concerned that Chia-Chia will raise far more money than that required to build him a new home and that the balance will not be used for panda conservation.

Mr David Jones, director of London Zoo, said yesterday that panda conservation was already well funded and other projects could equally well use any extra cash raised by Chia-Chia.

Mr Ken Cook, the press director who has been closely involved with US panda conservation, said: "It is a selfless and generous gesture for London to give up a valuable exhibit, and Mexico needs another male. But we will have to reserve comment on the Cincinnati issue."

Pandas are a top attraction in America and Chia-Chia could help Cincinnati Zoo to raise millions of dollars. The loan is an emotive topic among conservationists after the disastrous loan by China to Florida of a male and female. A male ovulated in transit, an event which occurs only once a year and can be exploited over a period of three days only, and she was returned early to China.



Chia-Chia: going in search of a mate while there is still time (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Mr Edward Heath, former Prime Minister, who in 1974 received Chia-Chia and his mate Ching-Ching as a gift from the Chinese Government, has welcomed the scheme as has the World Wildlife Fund in Britain.

London Zoo is anxious to contribute to panda captive breeding programmes and believes the only way to do it is to send Chia-Chia abroad.

If Chia-Chia, who has few active breeding years left, fails to mate in Mexico, he will go on to Tokyo and Washington zoos before London Zoo considers bringing him home.

Checks to catch overloaded lorries

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Government is to take action against overloaded foreign lorries using British roads.

The Department of Transport said yesterday that it would introduce automatic weighing equipment at five large ports to screen a high proportion of foreign lorries. In addition, it would make spot checks on 13,000 foreign lorries this year, an increase of nearly 50 per cent on 1987.

The Home Office has contacted the Magistrates' Association and expressed concern at the low level of fines - averaging £161 - for overloading.

The moves are in reply to a report by the Commons all-party Public Accounts Committee, which said heavy lorries inflicted damage of more than £600 million a year and which accused the Department of Transport of lacking "commitment, energy and drive" in tackling the problem.

The MPs said a quarter of foreign lorries weighed more than 40 tons and were served with prohibition notices, and called for compulsory weight checks at ports.

Overloading caused repair work costing more than £50 million a year and the true incidence of overloading could be as much as one lorry in three, the MPs report said.

A quarter of weighbridges were out of action at any one time, but the department said yesterday that 90 per cent were now working.

The department said that "action to reduce the adverse effects of heavy lorries... should be taken forward as quickly as possible."



NOW WE'RE STRIDING EVEN FURTHER AHEAD.



At the Annual General Meeting on the 27th April, Abbey National's Chairman, Sir Campbell Adamson, made the following comments:

"In 1987, Abbey National faced increasingly aggressive competition from all quarters. Yet we have had our best year ever.

This was achieved by improving the quality and broadening the range of our customer service, whilst remaining extremely competitive in the savings and mortgage markets.

Record growth.

Assets rose to £26,411 million and reserves rose to £1,133 million, thus providing even more security for our members.

And our diversification has been so successful, we have made a record pre-tax profit of £353 million.

Innovation and expansion.

Research has shown that people like to do business with us and want to do so on a broader basis. So in 1987 the Society increased the scope of its activities whilst applying the same principles that have made us so popular in our traditional markets.

The high interest Sterling Asset investment account, launched last year, has so far attracted over £5,000 million. And we opened many more Abbeylink machines, bringing the total to over 300, with access to 900 more machines through the Link network.

We have consolidated our commitment to the home buying market by the formation of the Cornerstone estate agency chain. To date, we have acquired over 130 offices across the country. We also established the subsidiary

Abbey National Homes Ltd and have started an exciting programme of new home construction.

On the broader financial front, we are now offering a range of life insurance products marketed by Abbey National and underwritten by Friends Provident. In addition, Abbey National Financial Services has been formed so that we can offer independent advice on a range of financial planning matters.

Our expansion hasn't stopped with this country. With the formation of Abbey National (Overseas) Limited, we are for the first time, offering a service to British expatriates. And as part of our European strategy we have concentrated on the very promising Spanish housing market, both for Spanish Nationals and British home buyers.

Finally, March of this year saw the highly

successful launch of both our Current Account and our High Interest Cheque Account.

Future plans.

1987 was a year of great progress for Abbey National. So that we can continue to provide the service our members want, the board has recommended that the Society seek plc status and we will put full proposals to our members in due course.

We are confident that our policy of continued innovation will make 1988 an even more successful year."



District profile: Dudley

Labour picks up points for refuse

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

If Labour keeps control of the Black Country borough of Dudley it will have a lot to do with bulk refuse, according to Mr Fred Hunt, the party leader on the council.

"It's amazing how popular our new twice-a-year collection from households has been", he said.

Outside the West Midlands, Mr Hunt would probably be counted on his party's right wing but in the industrial revolution towns and villages around Dudley, Halesowen and Stourbridge he exemplifies a local canniness over money and property.

Control of Dudley council has swung giddily during the 1980s, and Labour has only recently strengthened its position to a comfortable command. The Conservatives need a clear gain of seven seats from Labour to win.

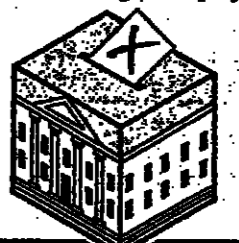
Both parties acknowledge there is talk on the doorsteps of such national issues as health. Mr Jack Edmunds, the Tory leader, said that the nurses' pay rise has taken steam out of the issue. Both he and the Labour canvassers prefer to talk about the bread and butter issues of rates and services, and both are happy to offer themselves to the electorate on performance.

Labour, Mr Edmunds said, has added £25 million to the wages bill by taking on extra staff, yet cunningly used some £14.5 million of reserves to cushion this April's rate rise.

"We are making people aware that there will be a reckoning to be paid next year - rates may then have to rise by 25 per cent."

In a borough where familiar faces and personal reputation count for a great deal, there is this May a large turnover of members. Seven of the 24 seats being contested have no sitting councillor in the ballot.

Labour is proud of its record in office. "We've put more into road maintenance and cleansing, spent more on school buildings, employed



LOCAL ELECTIONS

more staff in old people's homes, opened the Stourbridge leisure centre... Dudley is getting a better bargain under Labour", Mr Hunt said.

Yet the very focus on council services is perhaps an indication of how the political and economic climates have been changing in the West Midlands. Relative economic prosperity has taken the sting out of the jobs issue.

The recession in manufacturing and the high unemployment it brought earlier in the 1980s has not been forgotten - there is all-party support for the two areas in Dudley designated as enterprise zones, though increasing disagreement about the large-scale retail developments that are replacing the old iron and steel plants.

Village fights for right of no taxes

By Andrew Morgan

The village of Knighton, Staffordshire, the only community exempt from rates, has roundly supported its local MP in an attempt to keep its 300-year-old right in the face of attempts to introduce the community charge.

Its optimism has been encouraged by government concessions and the much reduced majority in the Commons on the "ability to pay" amendment of Mr Michael Mates, Conservative MP for Hampshire East.

Mr William Cash, Conservative MP for Stafford, tabled an amendment to the Local Government Finance Bill this week to keep Knighton's tax-free status.

Thirty-one of the 34 properties in the village are exempt from paying rates under an Act introduced by Charles II in 1669 for 1,000 acres of land around Knighton which was owned by William Adams, a London haberdasher.

Adams used the endowment from the land to set up the Haberdashers' School at Newport, Shropshire. In return, it was exempt from all taxes. It remains so, in spite of changes of ownership.

Mr Cash said the 1669 Act stated that the villagers "shall not at any time hereafter be rated, taxed, or assessed to pay any sum or be charged in any way whatsoever". The Government would have to overturn the Act with an order dating back to Henry VIII.

He said: "If Parliament decides, there is no reason why certain categories cannot be excluded from the community charge. But to use a statutory instrument to repeal an earlier Act of Parliament is in itself offensive. In the 1975 Rating and Valuation Act the rural district council, as it was then, was given the opportunity to try to end the exemption and took no action."

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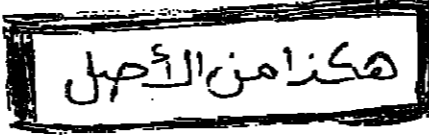
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Checks to catch overloaded lorries

By Maria Flecker Political Reporter

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One shopper in 12 may steal

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

As many as 80 people out of every thousand in a large store at any time are likely to be stealing, yet plainclothes store detectives have a limited impact on shoplifting, a Home Office report said yesterday.

The report, by Mr John Burrows, group security adviser to Dixons, says there are severe limitations to the traditional solution of simply handing wrongdoers to the police and serious doubts on whether the criminal justice system can prevent re-offending.

The report says: "There is a commercial tightrope to be trodden between adventurous and successful merchandising on the one hand and that which is too adventurous, leading to substantial losses from theft on the other."

Retailers simply do not know the true extent of their losses from crime, the report says. Various studies have suggested that at least 1.5 per cent and perhaps as many as 8 per cent of customers going into shops take something without paying.

Though not a large percentage, those figures mean that in a store dealing at any time, say, with 1,000 shoppers, between 15 and 80 of those are likely to be removing something without payment.

Victims claim many crimes 'too trivial' for police priority

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

More than a quarter of crimes reported to the police are deemed by their victims not to merit even average police priority, according to a Home Office report published yesterday.

Most offences are considered to be relatively trivial by those who have suffered them, the report found. Surprisingly, 20 per cent of wounding offences were not regarded by their victims as being of high seriousness or deserving high priority by the police.

The report analyses replies in the 1984 British Crime Survey conducted by NOP Market Research on 11,000 households in England and Wales. Mrs Mary Tuck, head of the Home Office Research and Planning Unit, says in a foreword: "While reporting to the police is heavily influenced by the seriousness of the offence, by no means all offences regarded as serious are reported, nor all trivial ones kept out of police records".

Dr Ken Pease, of Manchester University, author of the report, says: "It is clear that reporting an offence to the police is by no means equivalent to a request for even average police priority to be given to it".

The report shows that the need to report stolen property for insurance purposes is the biggest reason why offences which would otherwise be regarded as unimportant are recorded by the police.

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People 'afraid to seek help'

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

Fear of cancer often prevents people from seeking early treatment that could save their lives, according to a national survey of public attitudes towards the disease published today.

However, while most people are more worried about developing cancer than any other serious illness, Aids is now perceived as more threatening to younger age groups, the survey shows.

The fear of cancer is "worse than the fear of death", according to 40 per cent of those taking part in the survey, published by the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund.

Women are most likely to feel that way, while younger people and those in the highest socio-economic classes have less negative attitudes.

Lung cancer is seen as much more likely to kill than cancer of the breast or cervix, but 72 per cent of those surveyed believe that cancers generally are at least sometimes curable, while 88 per cent regard Aids as a certain killer.

Giving up smoking is seen as the best way to reduce the risk of getting cancer, followed by going for regular checks and cervical smears.

Just under 1,000 people took part in the survey, conducted in 85 sampling points in England, Scotland and Wales. "It would seem that although knowledge of cancer is increasing steadily, fears and negative attitudes remain fairly entrenched", the survey says.

British breakthrough in testing food additives

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

British scientists have developed a method for analysing the potential side-effects of food additives, experimental drugs, pesticides and other synthetic chemicals.

The method will also instantly reveal whether a label accurately describes the contents of a food or drink product.

The technique, devised at Surrey University, will be made available commercially to the food, pharmaceutical, veterinary and chemical industries through the Food and Veterinary Laboratory. The laboratory is a science-based company set up on the Surrey Research Park, next to the university.

One of them, Professor Dennis Parke, said there had been many failures of the present system to detect the drug or pesticide with potential carcinogenicity (cancer-causing properties) or toxicity. He said they included thalidomide, practolol, a heart treatment drug that caused eye

damage; benoxipron, the active substance in Opren, the anti-arthritis drug; and salazopyrin, a treatment for gastro-intestinal illnesses that had severe side-effects.

One problem is that toxic chemicals can be present in a food in such infinitesimal amounts that they cannot be identified before a person has consumed them for a long period.

Professor Parke said the new approach to safety testing can, sometimes within days, provide a detailed report on the likely carcinogenicity or toxicity of trial chemicals. The analyses can be done without the use of experimental animals.

The methods pioneered by the Surrey scientists have combined their specialist knowledge of how innocuous substances can be converted into poisons in the body, the way different compounds trigger cancer, the design of sensitive instruments that detect agents in concentrations as low as one part in 1,000,000,000, and advances in computer graphics.

Colourist 'should be upgraded'

£127,000 record for Peplow

The price level for S.J. Peplow made the big time yesterday when one of his still-life paintings soared three times over his estimate, to a world record of £127,000 for any colourist painter.

Showing a blue-draped table with peonies and fruit, it was bought by David Ker and Jonathan Clark, Chelsea art dealers. "Peplow's pictures have the makings of top market pictures". Mr Clark said after the sale. "I am certain they will soon be upgraded into the Impressionist sales where they belong, rather than 'Modern British'".

The Sotheby's sale at Hopetoun House, West Lothian, also included a record for a Francis Cadell whose art dealer, Mrs Jane Checkland, said yesterday that it was worth £220,000.

The previous records for both artists were at Christie's in 1986. Peplow's fetching £84,840 and Cadell's £32,000. Other high prices included

SALE ROOM

By Sarah Jane Checkland Art Market Correspondent

that of £33,000 for two classic paintings of little girls at play by Edward Atkinson Hornel. Both were estimated at up to £20,000.

Fifty art dealers are to participate in the first big twentieth-century British art fair at the Cumberland Hotel in London from September 30 to October 4. It stems from a reaction to a change in attitudes, where instead of looking abroad for inspiration, critics and the public are starting to appreciate talent at home.

English water colours were also selling for double their estimate at Sotheby's, London, yesterday, although prices remained modest. Top lot, at £2,640, was an album of miscellaneous water-colours and drawings of topographical subjects, including fragments

attributed to Francis Towne and Thomas Girtin. A folio of views along the Thames by Lady Farnborough fetched £2,420 (estimate £500 to £700).

Mallams of Oxfordshire enjoyed the attentions of French dealers yesterday, when it sold a quality Louis Philippe mahogany secretary for three times its estimate, at £25,000. Apart from having panels decorated with paintings after Francois Boucher, the secretary was distinguished by the fact that it failed to sell last time it appeared for auction, at Christie's in 1895. It was bought yesterday by Philippe Delpeire, a dealer from Paris.

A bottle of Chateau Mouton Rothschild 1945 sold for £1,485, or twice its estimate at Sotheby's London yesterday, because of the attached message from Alfred and Hitchcock and his wife. "Only the finest for Laura & Maurice", it reads. "Happy ABC (then all the other letters of the alphabet except, mysteriously, the L). It is signed 'Alma & Hitch'".

Songs of praise for an historic church

The choir of Great St Mary's, the university church of Cambridge, on its roof - with King's College Chapel behind - for the launch of a £175,000 appeal for a new organ. Both Richard III and Henry VII were substantial donors to a fifteenth century appeal to enlarge the church. (Photograph: Graham Wood).

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NATIONAL SAVINGS

SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

LOCAL ELECTIONS

more staff in old people homes, opened the Sunbridge Leisure Centre. Dudley is getting a better bargain under Labour, Mr Hunt said.

Net the very focus of council services is perhaps a indication of how the political and economic climates have been changing in the West Midlands. Relative economic prosperity has taken the sting out of the jobs issue.

The recession in manufacturing and the high unemployment it brought earlier in its history has not been forgotten - there is all-party support in the two areas in Dudley despite the fact that the council is being run as a business.

The recession in manufacturing and the high unemployment it brought earlier in its history has not been forgotten - there is all-party support in the two areas in Dudley despite the fact that the council is being run as a business.

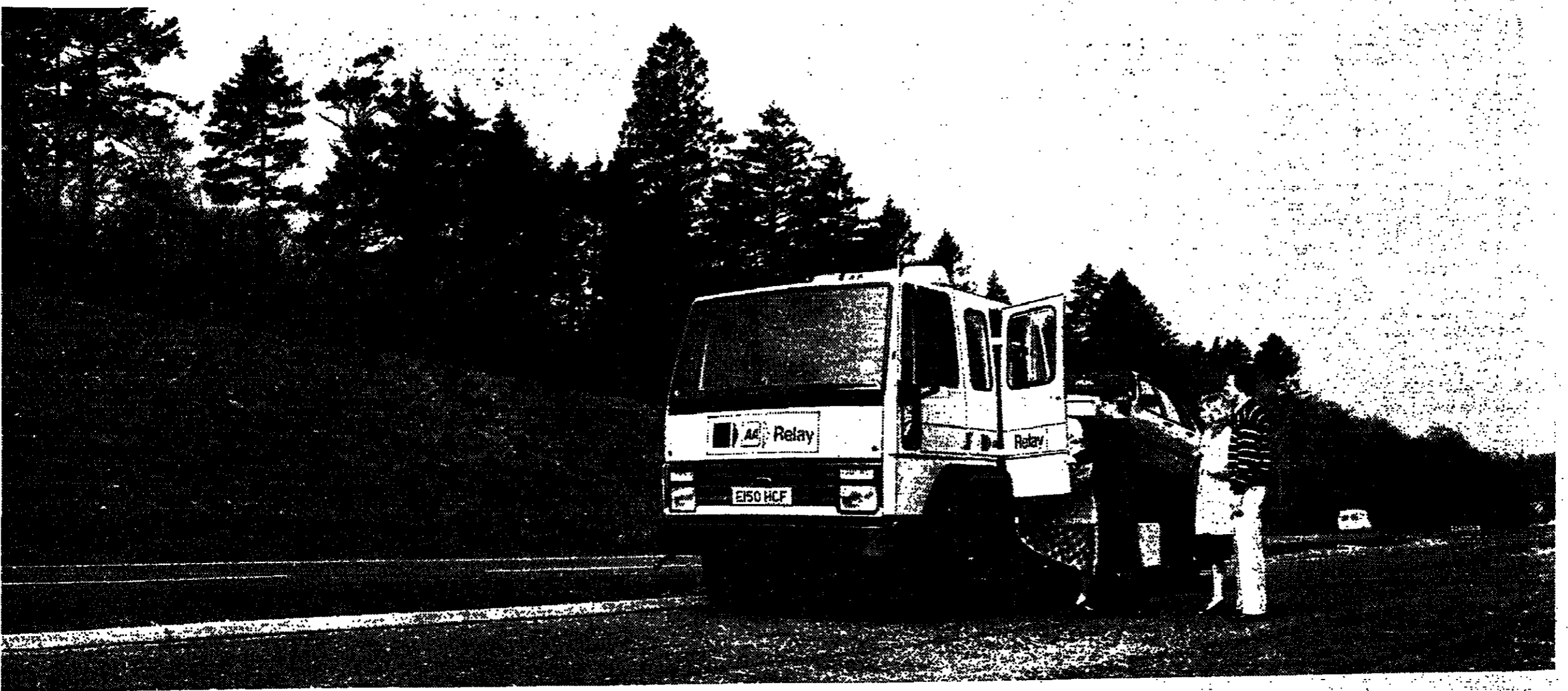
Mr Morgan

Mr Morgan remains so, in spite of change of ownership.

Mr Cash said the 1600 he stated that the village was not at any time heretofore rated, taxed, or assessed in any way whatsoever. "If any Government would have any way whatsoever", Mr Cash said, "it would have to overturn the Act with a date back to Henry VIII."

He said: "If Parliament decides, there is no reason why certain categories cannot be excluded from the council tax charge. But to use a charge to repay the interest on the Act of Parliament is an offensive. In the Act, the council, as it was, was given the opportunity to end the charge and it took no action.

Mrs Jane Turney, of the Haberdashers' Guild in the village, said: "We agree with the council's view that the tax on each head would be a monumental thing. We are in a position to keep these places and it would be a good idea to keep these basic services at the expense of rates."



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we found you somewhere to stay, or helped you to catch a plane or train home? Again no problem, we'll pay for it.

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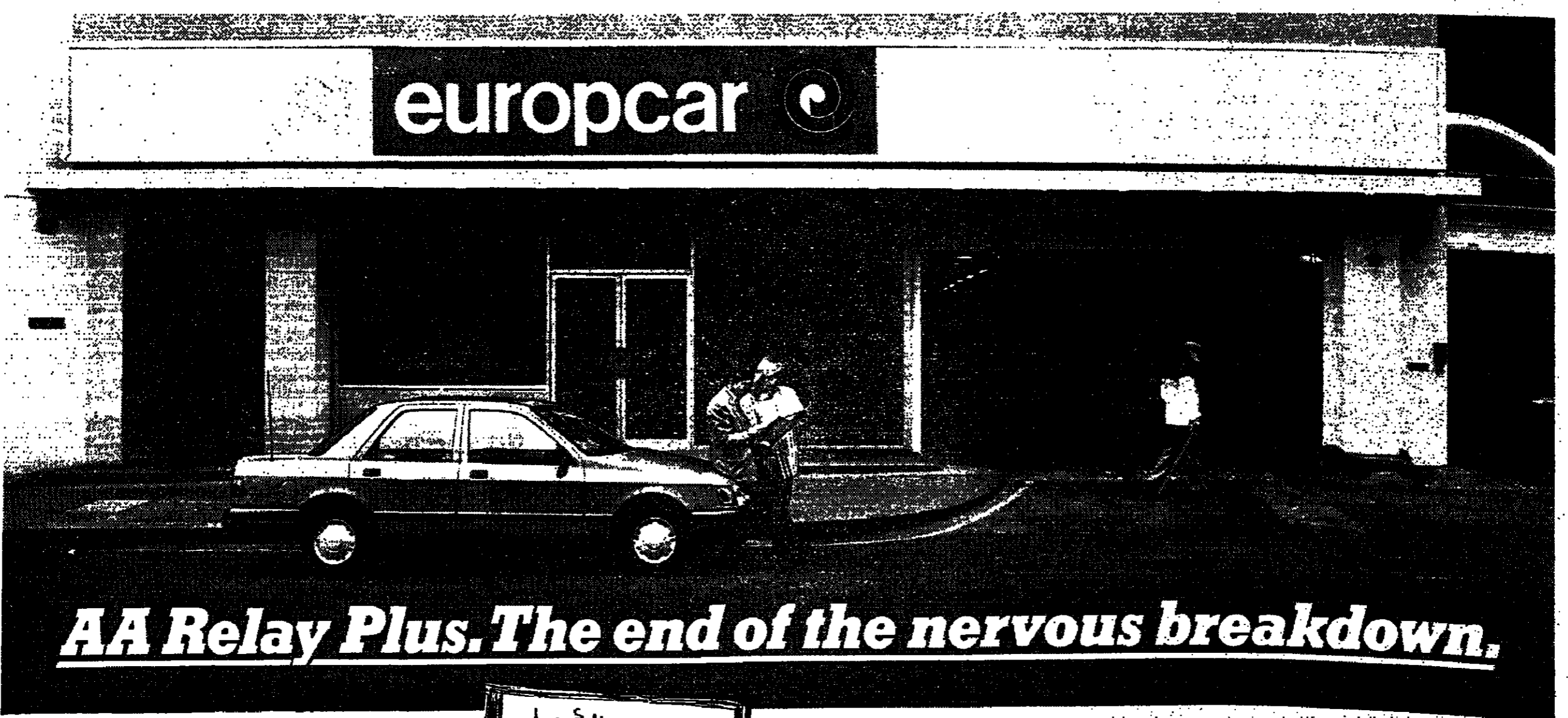
Then again, you might just want to go home. Fast. If so, we'll take you to the nearest station or airport - you decide which - and, up to a cost of

£100, the fares will be on us. AA Relay Plus costs just £11 per year and is only available to members of our Relay Service.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

US test case for healing doctrine

Boston - A grand jury here has decided to prosecute a Christian Scientist couple for the manslaughter of their son, aged two, because they relied on the church's doctrine of spiritual healing rather than medical treatment (Charles Bremner writes). The charges against Mr David and Mrs Ginger Twitchell have set the scene for a landmark legal battle between the responsibilities of the state and the constitutional right to observe religious convictions.

Nato warns Danes

Brussels - Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, warned his Danish counterpart here yesterday of the "grave implications" for Denmark and the Nato alliance if approval is given for a ban in its ports on ships carrying nuclear weapons in peacetime (Michael Evans writes).

Israelis' fatal errors

Jerusalem - Sixteen Israeli teenagers, one of whom was killed during a clash with Palestinians, had set off for a hike in the occupied West Bank without making proper preparations, according to an army report published yesterday (Ian Murray writes). The incident, at Beitir Village, near Nabulus, on April 6, resulted in the deaths of Tirza Porat, aged 15, one of the hikers, and two Arabs.

Royal ferry jolted

Melbourne - A ferry boat taking the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh on a pleasure cruise with 500 VIP guests was involved in a collision yesterday with a coastal patrol vessel (Christopher Morris writes).

Bonn insurance cut

Bonn - Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right Government yesterday approved proposals for drastic cost-cutting reforms in West German health insurance schemes that will save about \$4.5 billion a year (John England writes).

Tories win Manitoba

Ottawa - The left-wing New Democratic Party has been voted out of office in a Canadian provincial general election in Manitoba that brought the Conservatives back to power with a minority mandate (John Best writes).

South Korean voters set stage for turmoil

From Gavin Bell Seoul The flowers and the frowns say it all. In the Seoul offices of Mr Kim Dae Jung, the veteran dissident leader, huge bouquets spill into the corridors in celebration of an election result that has shattered the mould of South Korean politics. Across the city, dejected officials of the ruling Democratic Justice Party are picking up the pieces and wondering ruefully how to put them back together again.

his New Democratic Republican Party mustered sufficient seats to enable him to act as a power-broker between the larger formations. Thus Mr Roh Tae Woo, the ruling party's leader who was elected President by a minority vote last December, faces a complex and arduous task in coming to terms with the three disputatious Kim's over his programme of cautious liberal reforms.

Mr Kim Jong Pil is a curious figure. A former director of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, he served as Prime Minister under the late President Park in the 1970s. By reviving the then ruling Democratic Republican Party (by simply adding the prefix "New") Mr Kim has staged a remarkable comeback.

Roh plea for unity after poll setback

From Gavin Bell, Seoul President Roh of South Korea has appealed for unity and compromise with opposition forces after his ruling Democratic Justice Party suffered an unprecedented setback in general elections.

Captured Kanaks on murder charges



A French policeman holding two handcuffed members of the Kanak Socialist Liberation Front who were arrested yesterday near Noumea in connection with the kidnapping of 15 French gendarmes. A total of ten Kanaks, manacled and handcuffed, appeared in court in the capital of the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia, charged with armed rebellion, kidnapping and murder (Our Foreign Staff writes).

Predictably, the most flexible posture was adopted by Mr Kim Jong Pil, whose New Democratic Republican Party holds the balance of power with its 35 seats. He said that the opposition should be prepared both to counter and to compromise with the ruling party, in accordance with the will of the people.

French presidential election

Chirac wins Giscard's backing

From Philip Jacobson, Paris The honours in the opening skirmishes yesterday for floating votes in the second round of the French presidential election were probably shared.

Le Pen, would vote the same way. After protracted wrangles about the timing, length and format of what the press here is calling *le face-to-face*, President Mitterrand and M Chirac are to lock horns before the television cameras tonight for the first time since the campaign began.

Saudis bombed after Iran split

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent An explosion yesterday heavily damaged a Kuwait office of Saudi Arabia's national airline, injuring a guard.



Ayatollah Khomeini: Left in isolation by Mecca violence, living abroad, who tend to be opponents of Ayatollah Khomeini's regime.

Two senior British experts on Arab affairs emphasized that the Saudis had proved extremely cautious in the face of Iranian provocation. "If Britain had had to put up with what they have suffered, we would have broken relations years ago," one said.

Ze fights for of no taxes

By Andrew Morgan remains so, in spite of the fact that the village has been divided from the rest of the district council, as it was by the Government Act which dates back to Henry VIII.

Greek masterpiece alleged to be a fake

By Boris Johnson A wave of dignified panic yesterday passed through Britain's centre for the study of classical archaeology, the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, at allegations that Greek art's equivalent of the Mona Lisa is a 19th century forgery.

Dr John Coulton, reader in classical archaeology at Oxford, commented: "To be honest, I thought it was genuine because I have always been told that it is."

Penelope associated with Aphrodite at Locri in south Italy. While the central scene shows the birth of Aphrodite as she is lifted from the sea by two nymphs, the wings show an older woman burning incense and a naked girl playing pipes.



This panel of a girl playing pipes is said to be one place in which the forger betrayed himself.

Checks to catch overloaded lorries. The Government is to take action against overloaded lorries using... The Department of Transport said yesterday that it would introduce... The Home Office has... The MPs said a quarter of foreign lorries were out of action at any one time, but the department said yesterday that 90 per cent are now working.

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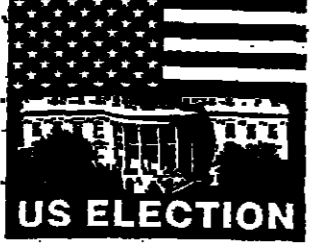
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Bush and Dukakis surge ahead

From Christopher Thomas Philadelphia

Governor Michael Dukakis tightened his grip on the Democratic presidential nomination with a resounding victory over the Rev Jesse Jackson in the Pennsylvania primary, undercutting the Baptist preacher among white ethnic minorities, the poor and the unemployed.

Republican voters gave enough delegates to Vice-President George Bush to take him over the 1,139 level which



was needed to clinch the nomination.

Mr Jackson, who has fought non-stop from the outset, looked emotionally and physically exhausted yesterday. He pledged to stay in the race, but clearly his campaign has lost its lustre. A low turnout of black voters in Pennsylvania reflected a deepening despondency with his valiant but flagging effort.

In the popular vote he took 28 per cent against 67 per cent for Mr Dukakis. In separate balloting to select delegates for the national convention, he fared even worse, capturing only 15 out of 178 at stake.

The victory for Mr Dukakis,



Over the hurdle: Mr Bush addressing voters in Evansville, Indiana before his decisive win in the Pennsylvania primary.

his most decisive so far, will propel his drive in the Ohio and Indiana primaries next Tuesday, where he is assured of new triumphs. But he still adamantly refuses to claim the nomination.

He now has about 1,250 delegates, against some 850 for Mr Jackson - 2,081 are needed for nomination. He is moving ahead with such speed that he may soon see a real prospect of some backstage wheeling and dealing with Mr

Jackson and others to secure enough delegates for victory before the national convention in Atlanta on July 18.

But for now, Mr Jackson is saying only that the campaign will be decided on June 7 at the California and New Jersey primaries. California can be unpredictable for a Democratic frontrunner; for example, it rejected Mr Jimmy Carter in 1976 after he was all but nominated.

Mr Jackson carried Phila-

delphia in the popular vote by an unimpressive 54 per cent to 44 per cent for Mr Dukakis, and he lost Pittsburgh. Overall, he captured between 10 and 14 per cent of white votes.

Mr Dukakis swept the board among blue-collar whites and ethnic minorities that make up a sizeable part of Pennsylvania's population.

For Mr Bush, the victory was especially sweet. He won the Pennsylvania popular vote in 1980 but lost the delegates

to Mr Reagan and dropped out of the presidential race the next day. This time he took 79 per cent of the popular vote.

The rest went to Senator Bob Dole and Mr Pat Robertson, still technically in the race though not campaigning. The Vice-President has yet to fire up his campaign against Mr Dukakis, although aides are telling him he must do soon. Mr Bush will focus heavily on the Democrat's lack of foreign experience.

Clamour to oust Meese despite Reagan backing

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan again defiantly endorsed Mr Edwin Meese, his embattled Attorney General, saying he would ask him to leave the Administration "only if he had a complete change of character".

He showed flashes of irritation during a picture-taking session at questions about a report in *The Wall Street Journal* that several of the President's closest former advisers, including Mr Caspar Weinberger, the former Defence Secretary, were pursuing a campaign to oust Mr Meese.

Mr Reagan said he was "not aware" of the report, but quickly added that it was "totally inaccurate". He said he would not approve such a plan, said to involve Mrs Nancy Reagan.

Nevertheless the tide is running out for Mr Meese. Senior Republicans see him as a growing liability and a threat to Vice-President George Bush's presidential hopes.

Mr Weinberger and Mr Stuart Spencer, a long-standing Reagan campaign consultant, are said to be among those who are convinced that Mr Meese's legal difficulties are disrupting the Justice Department and tarring the entire Administration with the "sleaze factor".

Although the report by Mr James McKay, the special prosecutor, which is anticipated within a few weeks, is

not expected to seek Mr Meese's indictment, it is likely to be strongly critical of his ethical conduct.

Mr Bush also thinks Mr Meese should go, fearing that the Democrats will exploit the issue to his disadvantage. Hinting at the turmoil in the depleted Justice Department, he said recently that he would not tolerate any breaches of ethics or personal profiteering in a Bush administration.

Within the space of five days, the disarray in the department forced Mr Meese to abandon a trip to a London conference on terrorism; he and his wife defended themselves before a grand jury; he had a sharp confrontation with a Senate committee; and the two top aides who resigned in disgust went directly to President Reagan to argue that he was unfit for office.

Mr Meese is also losing the support of conservatives, whose cause he once championed. Many now complain that Mr Reagan's domestic policy council, which Mr Meese chairs, is failing to outline administration strategy on such pressing issues as day-care, health insurance, minimum wages and factory closures.

Congress is now ignoring the Justice Department. A House of Representatives panel approved a Bill, regulating plastic guns, without wait-

ing for Justice officials to testify; other administration Bills, such as one aimed at child pornography, have not moved forward because the department has not lobbied.

Mr Reagan still holds Mr Meese in affection, and is said to be haunted by the way he allowed his former Secretary of Labour, Mr Raymond Donovan, who was subsequently cleared of any wrongdoing, to be forced out under threat of indictment.

Opponents of Mr Meese are looking for help to Mrs Reagan, who has usually taken the decisive steps that have led to the dismissal of senior officials.

Mr Meese has accused the media of trying to hound him out of office, spiritedly defended himself in a talk with the President after Mr Arnold Burns, the former Deputy Attorney General, and Mr William Weld, who resigned on the same day, outlined why Mr Meese should quit.

Meanwhile, a grand jury heard testimony on Tuesday on the links between Mr Meese's wife, Ursula, and a family that owned a building leased to the Justice Department. The lease was renewed in 1985 for a much higher rent soon after a foundation, set up by the landlords, began paying the salary of Mrs Meese's post at the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Going over the great divide in Pennsylvania

Philadelphia - The contests for both the Republican and Democratic nominations have been effectively ended by the Pennsylvania primaries on Tuesday. There was hardly any doubt who the candidates would be after the New York primaries last week. Now there can be none.

Vice-President George Bush has been given the certainty of an absolute majority of delegates at the Republican convention. Governor Michael Dukakis's position is not formally so strong. He is unlikely to have enough committed delegates even by the end of the primaries in early June. But he has become unstoppable.

So far both candidates the nature of the campaign has changed. Pennsylvania marks a decisive dividing line.

Until he had made quite sure of the nomination it was enough for Mr Bush to present himself as President Reagan's devoted helmsman. It is his loyalty that has appealed to the party loyalists who vote in Republican primaries.

But he will have to cut a more distinctive figure, to show that he is his own man, if he is to appeal to the wider electorate that will be voting in November.

Before Super Tuesday on March 8 he could not afford to say anything out of line for fear of upsetting the party loyalists and thereby losing the nomination.

Since Super Tuesday it has been difficult for him to attract attention for anything he did say. He won so handsomely in those primaries that the Republican race became a foregone conclusion.

It has been overshadowed by the much more exciting Democratic battle. Both in New York last week and now in Pennsylvania one would hardly have known that there was a Republican primary at all.

Mr Bush stands to gain even more from Mr Dukakis's success in Pennsylvania than from his own. It would be dangerous for him simply to glide unscathed to the Republican convention in August.

His greatest asset is his experience. Yet that advantage will be steadily eroded if Mr Dukakis continues to dominate the headlines over the next three months as he has done in recent weeks.

The Democratic race so far has been ideal for him, not only because he has been winning but also because it has



Geoffrey Smith

been close enough to be interesting. The repetition of his name has been conferring a new authority on the unknown candidate.

So now that the remaining Democratic primaries will be more predictable Mr Bush has a new chance to make himself heard again.

For Mr Dukakis these primaries will become not so much a contest as an exercise in competitive collaboration. He must continue to win, but also to prepare the ground for co-operating later on acceptable terms with the Rev Jesse Jackson and his supporters.

Already both of them have adjusted their campaigning accordingly. The contest in Pennsylvania was much less abrasive than in New York.

For both Mr Bush and Mr Dukakis the new phase of the campaign should bring closer scrutiny of their policies. The question with Mr Bush is whether he can say enough to interest the voters without giving hostages to the future.

The greatest danger is his commitment not to raise taxes, which he repeated again in Pittsburgh this week. But if the budget deficit is to be cut significantly, higher taxes would almost certainly have to be part of a broader package.

Mr Dukakis does not go so far as Mr Bush to rule out a tax rise. But he indicated to me when I spoke to him in New York that he would wait to see if enough money could be raised by improved revenue collection, which would take all or most of his first year in office. The question with Mr Dukakis, apart from his inexperience in foreign policy, is whether he could find the money for his social programmes.

So will Mr Dukakis be too liberal for the present mood of the American voters? Will Mr Bush play it too safe?

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Saboteurs try to derail American troop train

Bonn - Unknown saboteurs laid five explosive charges in an attempt early yesterday to blow up an American military train travelling from Berlin to Frankfurt (John England writes). The blasts tore up the track, but failed to derail the train with 31 US soldiers aboard; only the driver was slightly hurt by flying glass. The attack, near Hedemünden in Lower Saxony, was the second on an American military train since last September.

French raid

Toulouse (AP) - Robbers disguised as policemen stole an estimated 15 million francs (£1.4 million) from strongboxes at a Brinks depot here.

Army blast

Port of Spain (AFP) - Two soldiers and four firemen were killed when an army ammunition dump exploded on Trinidad as they were fighting a forest fire nearby.

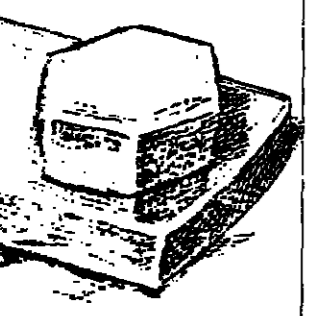
Defence plan

Stockholm (Reuters) - Sweden plans to spend an extra £61.5 million on submarine defences and says it will adopt a shoot without warning policy against intruding submarines.

Fuel clash

Lagos (AP) - Police arrested 25 people in the western city of Ikorin during violent demonstrations against petrol price increases.

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Mujahidin bomb mars Kabul festivities

By Edward Gorman

Mujahidin guerrillas demonstrated their contempt for celebrations being held in Kabul to mark the tenth anniversary of the Afghan communist, or Saur, revolution yesterday, by detonating a bomb in the centre of the city which killed four people and injured seven others.

The bomb was in a lorry parked by the Kabul River on the edge of the busy commercial district. Part of the lorry was blown into the river and two cars nearby were blown upside down by the force of the explosion. Witnesses said they saw at least three bodies being taken away in ambulances immediately after the blast. Government troops quickly sealed off the area and tanks were brought in to guard the site.

The bombing — the latest in a campaign of growing intensity by the guerrillas — is the first serious incident in the city during two days of celebrations to mark the revolution.

Kabul is normally reluctant to disclose details of Mujahidin attacks, but with a large contingent of Western journalists in the city there was little they could do to conceal the extent of the damage. By lunchtime Tass had confirmed the bombing and put the casualties at four dead and seven injured.

Communist party officials told Western correspondents that they believed the attack was the work of Mujahidin

guerrillas, but the timing and the placing of the bomb had been designed to inflict few casualties — the implication being that a political or psychological point was the main intent.

Meanwhile leaders of the Mujahidin held a series of seven rallies near Peshawar to condemn the anniversary and to reaffirm their commitment to continue fighting regardless of the recent peace accords in Geneva and the imminent Soviet withdrawal.

Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the fundamentalist Jamiat-i Islami faction, told his supporters that the communists had turned Afghanistan into a "slaughterhouse". He said that the war would continue until President Najibullah was overthrown.

"We should have no prejudice," he said. "At the moment we should be united because our people are armed against the Government and there will be much bloodshed." Another leader denounced the revolution, which he said had brought a decade of "tears, pain, fire and blood".

In a separate development, the US Embassy in Kabul is halving its diplomatic staff after intelligence reports that the mission has been chosen as a target by Iranian squads sent into Afghanistan in retaliation for US attacks on Iranian targets in the Gulf.

The 12-man mission is

being reduced to six, with tighter security being imposed. Some of the remaining diplomats will now sleep in the embassy. The United States maintains an embassy in Kabul but does not recognize President Najibullah's regime and has no official contact with it.

● DELHI: About 300 Afghan refugees demonstrated here yesterday to urge India not to force them to return to their homeland. Many of them were detained by police after they tried to break through barricades outside the parliament building (AP reports).

"We will not return while the puppet communist regime is in power in Kabul," said Mr Ali Khan, chief representative of the Hezb-i Islami in India. He said that the refugees were unwilling to return home because they feared persecution.

The organization is one of the various Afghan groups opposed to the Soviet-backed Government in Afghanistan and the demonstration was also organized to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the communist takeover.

The refugees chanted "Down, down Russia," as they marched to a rally near the Parliament. A three-year-old Afghan in a pushchair was among the demonstrators. He held a green Islamic flag in his left hand and was eating popcorn.

The demonstrators set fire to a Soviet flag.



A woman comforting a friend injured by flying glass when a bomb planted in a truck by the Mujahidin exploded in central Kabul yesterday. Four people were killed and seven hurt.

Threat of more violence clouds Sri Lanka poll

From Vijitha Yapa, Colombo

The dilemma facing the 2.8 million voters in four provinces who will today elect members of Sri Lanka's first provincial councils is not a question of who to vote for, but whether to vote.

The elections, the first important poll since a referendum in 1982, are being boycotted by the main opposition party, Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party, while the extremist Sinhalese group, the proscribed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (People's Liberation Front) is expected to disrupt the polls.

Voting for a total of 163 seats on councils in the North-Central, North-Western, Sabaragamuwa and Uva Provinces will be held for nine hours from 7am.

All the candidates have been provided with guns for their protection, and there have been a number of attempts to kill candidates of the ruling United National Party and of the United Socialist Alliance.

The Freedom Party decided to boycott the polls because it said the country needed a general election. The Socialist Alliance, however, said that a good performance in the provincial council polls will strengthen the case for a general election.

A member of the Socialist Alliance, Dr Colvin de Silva, leader of the Trotskyist Lanka Sama Samaja Party, said: "If you want to fight the Government you don't fight it only on the grounds that you choose. You fight it on any ground you have the opportunity to fight."

The councils, part of last year's peace accord between Sri Lanka and India, will pave the way for devolution, with provinces being given powers akin to those of an Indian state, including the right to have a local police force.

Under the accord, Sri Lanka agreed to create one provincial council for the Northern and Eastern Provinces and to hold elections by December 1987, with the merger to be tested a year later by a referendum to determine whether it should become a permanent. But more than 50,000 Indian troops are still trying to disarm Tamil guerrillas in the provinces and immediate elections seem a remote possibility.

Elections to three more provincial councils, including the Southern Province, will be held on June 2.

The threat of violence by the People's Liberation Front is the unknown factor. The front is believed to be responsible for 217 murders in the past 10 months, with many victims supporting United National Party.

Last Friday, the group raided the Sri Lankan Air Force base at Katunayake and escaped with 30 automatic rifles, a machine gun and 1,200 rounds of ammunition. Security sources believe the guns may be used to disrupt the polls, and each of the 2,772 polling booths will be manned by at least five armed soldiers or policemen.

Due to fear, intimidation and lack of interest because the main opposition party is not participating, the turnout is expected to be low. Because the voting procedure is complex many spoilt votes are expected.

The United National Party is taking the polls seriously and some Cabinet ministers and MPs have resigned to contest the elections. Other than the Socialist Alliance, the only other party contesting the election is the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, a new party which wants to woo the island's minority Muslim community.

The United National Party is expected to win the election and if the Socialist Alliance is to make any impact it will have to attract the anti-government vote.

But as one shopkeeper in Polonnaruwa, about 150 miles from Colombo, said: "We are living like the tongue surrounded by 32 teeth. We have to avoid being bitten from all sides."

Many people believe it is better to give the Government a mandate to enable easier access to funds for the development of the provinces than to elect those opposed to a strong government.



Mrs Bandaranaike: Leading calls for a general election.

You don't get to be one of Britain's premier non-ferrous foundries without moving with the times, especially if you have been producing quality castings for over 100 years.

Melting was costing Stone Foundries Ltd £52 a tonne in energy alone when they called in Lionel Chaplin, Industrial Sales Engineer at the London Electricity Board. He helped Stone conduct a detailed technical appraisal and advised on a modernisation programme that included replacing five gas-fired



"I RECOMMENDED ELECTRIC FURNACES BECAUSE NO-ONE HAS MONEY TO BURN."

LIONEL CHAPLIN, LONDON ELECTRICITY BOARD.



furnaces with four electric melters in the die-casting foundry.

The £35,000 capital cost was recovered in less than six months in two ways. By melting at night using low-cost electricity and from a dramatic improvement in crucible life.

Energy costs for melting were reduced from £52 a tonne to a startling £23 a tonne.

This was one of several schemes to improve energy efficiency at Stone Foundries and just one of several thousand projects tackled by Electricity Board Industrial Sales Engineers (ISEs) last year.

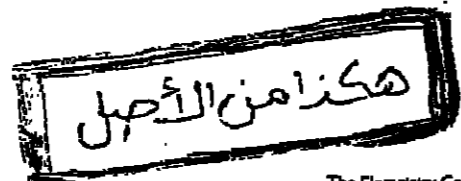
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Letter from Asunción

Chugging on the line to nowhere

Every day, just after noon, an ancient steam train clanks slowly out of the central railway station in the Paraguayan capital, Asunción, bound for the villages around Lake Ypacarai 25 miles to the east.

It is the only daily service on the line, although there is a twice-weekly overnight train to the border port of Encarnación, which lies 230 miles away on the Alto Paraná river at the Argentine frontier.

The British-built locomotive hauling the three-coach "local" to the lake — a 90-minute journey which costs only 8p — is a railway dinosaur: the engines still run by Paraguay's Presidente Carlos Antonio López Railway are wood-burning.

As it clatters and shakes through the sub-tropical countryside on its journey to the middle of nowhere, the train serves as a metaphor for Paraguay's creaking political system, which is also heading nowhere slowly, oblivious of progress in the outside world.

For almost alone among its South American neighbours — Chile being the obvious exception — Paraguay has ignored the steady sweep of democracy which in the past 10 years has seen the generals retreating to their barracks in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador. Since 1954, Paraguay has become increasingly a one-man show, General Alfredo Stroessner at centre-stage.

The longest-serving head of state in the world after Kim Il Sung of North Korea, President Stroessner has consolidated his power over the years through a mixture of political astuteness and ruthless suppression of his political opponents that has frequently drawn the fire of human rights organizations such as Amnesty International. Given his extreme right-wing ideology and apparently paranoid fear of communism, it is ironic that the general has enveloped himself in a personality cult more reminiscent of Eastern bloc leaders such as President Ceausescu of Romania.

Travellers arriving at Presidente General Stroessner international airport, 10 miles out of Asunción, are greeted by three portraits of the general before they even pass

through immigration; on the road into town there is a red neon sign flashing STROESSNER 1988-93, celebrating (if that is the word) his 90 per cent success in February's dubious elections — in which he gained another five years of absolute power; posters throughout the capital proclaim the general "Author of Order and Wellbeing", "The National Voice", and the creator of "Peace, Order, Progress". And when the brain-washed traveller leaves, as likely as not he will cross the Brazilian border at Ciudad Presidente Stroessner.

It is true that the 74-year-old president has created stability of a kind, but the price has been high. Paraguay, landlocked and dominated by its giant neighbours, Brazil and Argentina, ever since its independence from Spain in 1811, is a pariah among nations for its human rights record. Its economy relies almost as heavily on "transit trade" — commonly known as smuggling — as it does on the more traditional sectors such as agriculture.

Supporters of the President, and especially the militant faction of the Colorado Party in whom he has recently consolidated his power base to add to the real power invested in the armed forces, say that Paraguay's human rights record has improved since the widespread torture in the early days of Stroessner rule. But opponents say it has deteriorated again since last April's lifting of the state of siege in force since 1954.

The pro-Stroessner lobby also claims that the economy is being transformed by the hydro-electric power from the Itaipú Dam which since 1986 has enabled Paraguay to be a net exporter of electricity. And another huge hydro-electric scheme, this time in conjunction with Argentina, is under way at Yacretá, and is due for completion in 1992. The general is also credited with boosting primary education.

But these few pluses cannot disguise the fact that Paraguay under General Stroessner is living in the past with no clear vision of the future. Asunción shows few signs of moving faster than the 12.15 train.

Tim Austin

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Mrs. Bandaranaike: Leader calls for a general election

from Asuncion

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It is true that the 74-year-
old president has grown
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its neighbours. But
Argentina, ever since its
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suffered heavily on "war-
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مكزامن الاحصل



AT LAST. INSURANCE AGAINST INSURANCE SALESMEN.

Why have insurance salesmen got such a rotten reputation?

As with any other profession, there's been the odd bad apple. But isn't the real reason that they speak gobbledegook, and you don't?

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Answers to all these questions can be found in The Financial Services Act.

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All you need to know is that from 29th April you can only buy life insurance, pensions and unit trusts from two kinds of people. A company salesman. (Who's now easy to spot, because he has to admit that he only sells one company's policies.)

Or an Independent Financial Adviser.

He's a new species. Created to enable you to spot the real advisers; the ones with no vested interests. Go to one to buy your policy.

He'll talk to you (in your language). He'll listen. He may even be a bit nosy.

Like how many children have you got? When are you thinking of pulling out of the rat race? What's your income?

Things that help him find a policy that suits you. He'll then look at what all the insurance companies have to offer. Make a few suggestions. And together you'll make your final choice.

So now, when the insurance salesman knocks, your knees needn't.

Just ask him if he's an Independent Financial Adviser.



ASK FOR INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVICE.

Labour laughter greets Moore's concessions

The Government's concessions to the storm of criticism over its new social security regulations were greeted with laughter by the Opposition and an angry intervention by a Conservative MP.

BENEFITS

Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, told MPs that:

- The capital limit on housing benefit would be raised from £5,000 to £8,000;

- there would be transitional help, organized from a new central unit of the DHSS, and backdated to April 1, to help claimants whose housing benefit had been sharply reduced; and

- claimants would have six months, or longer in exceptional circumstances, to realize the value of property they leave for care homes.

He said that the changes would add £100 million to the social security budget.

Mr Andrew Bowden (Brighton, Kemptown, C) interrupted to say that he was deeply disturbed if he understood correctly that, although Mr Moore was increasing the basic capital figure to £8,000, he was making no difference to the basic tariff. It would still mean pensioners losing more than £8 a week.

Mr Moore later said that nobody in the "target groups" would lose more than £2.50 a week.

He was speaking in a debate opened by Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on health and social security, who called for a change so that no one with less than £10,000 in capital assets would lose housing benefit.

Mr Cook said that the Government had only themselves to blame if they had now to beat an ignominious retreat.

Mr Cook moved a motion calling on the Government to amend the regulations so that no one with less than £10,000 in capital assets lost housing benefit and to relax the taper by which housing benefit was reduced for claimants with any income above the poverty line.

He said that, when the House first debated the changes in housing benefit three years ago, MPs had repeatedly been told that they represented the most fundamental change in the welfare state for 40 years and must be designed to stand the test of the next 40 years.

"Far from standing the test of the next 40 years, the changes in housing benefit have not survived the test of the first four weeks. Already we have seen a series of frenetic meetings between ministers in order to get together a package of emergency sticking plaster to put over the cuts.

"Why? Because the system which they introduced after a fundamental and profound review has proved harsh in its

social consequences and embarrassing in its political consequences."

The air was thick with the grinding of alibis. All of a sudden no one wanted it to be thought that they had thought up the new rules. But from the moment this issue was first debated, Labour had vigorously opposed the changes.

"You cannot, without hardship, force up rents and rates as the Conservatives have done and then simultaneously cut subsidies for housing costs."

Every local authority association had warned the Government that its cut in housing benefit would be impractical and indefensible.

"They have marched on with this proposal in defiance of criticism from all informed groups and representative organizations. They have only themselves to blame if they are now obliged to beat an ignominious retreat."

Either the Government knew that these changes would cause the degree of hardship MPs had witnessed in their surgeries, in

to the new system and that knew how their expenditure under the new scheme compared with expenditure under the old scheme.

"The drop is dramatic. The Government repeatedly told us that the savings, as it liked to express it, would come to £650 million this year had the previous system continued, that is an 11 per cent cut.

"The experience of every local authority I have spoken to is that they are experiencing cuts well in excess of that figure.

"The most severely affected is my own local authority of West Lothian where expenditure is down 25 per cent on last year, 30 per cent this year. Almost three times the Government's estimate."

Those cuts contrasted with the bland assurances that had been given to the House. It was evident that 8.8 per cent of claimants would lose £5 a week.

The figures of local authority officers working in the real world with real tenants, showed that more than 21 per cent would be losing more than £6 a week and a huge 11 per cent would be losing £12 a week.

A director of finance had already received three suicide threats from tenants in the past two weeks.

Far from providing an incentive to work, the rules made it almost impossible for some people to reconcile family commitments with their work.

The unexpected ferocity of the cuts had, the Government now admitted, produced anomalies.

"There are 5½ million anomalies out there who have just seen their housing benefit cut."

Ministers had accused the Opposition of scouring the country to find hard cases. There was no need: they tumbled out of the mail boxes, political surgeries were full of them and the telephone calls poured in.

Many had been shocked by the loss of housing benefit.

Their reaction came in three stages: disbelief that the figures could be correct; despair at how they were to make ends meet; and anger that they were required to make such sacrifices.

That anger flared most fiercely when they compared their loss with the Budget where there had been no sacrifice for those who were rich beyond the dreams of everyone on housing benefit.

The change in the savings rule would be very welcome to those affected by it, but would help only 150,000 claimants when, by the Government's own admission, there were 5.5 million people who were losing because of the new system, the vast majority of them had no capital to their names.

If these people were to be helped, they must also tackle the cruel taper which provided such

a savage clawback of benefit.

Most of these people were in Conservative constituencies. Every Conservative MP had, on average, 7,500 losers in his constituency. That figure exceeded the majorities of 115 of them (Labour laughter).

It might be politically embarrassing for Conservative MPs to vote for the Opposition motion, but nothing like as politically embarrassing as it would be for them in their constituencies if they voted against it.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister had said that the major structure of the housing benefit system would remain substantially the same.

Tonight, the House must vote to take that new structure apart and to rebuild it (Labour cheers).

Mr Moore said that the new benefits system was a simpler one, which people could understand.

It had given more help to most of the disabled and most families with children and, in terms of fairness, it was a big improvement in many ways in terms of incentives.

Under the old Family Income Supplement, a family could be better off on £75 a week than on £150. "The perverse incentives of the old system have gone."

There was a consensus throughout the country that housing benefit was in need of structural reform. The old system had had to be reformed because it was hideously complicated and indefensibly unfair.

"This Government was not prepared to ignore the problem. Its reforms of 1983 and 1986 have got the structure right. What this means is that people in work and out of work will receive the same level of help."

Mr Moore said that, in the past few weeks, he had been listening to the points made by Conservative MPs.

The issues which have been most often mentioned in public discussion of the new housing benefit scheme is the capital rule.

"None of us wishes to discourage people from saving. Yet it is clearly wrong that the taxpayer should be expected to pay the rents and rates of people who have some capital and who could be expected to draw on it.

"The question is all about what level that should be before they turn to their fellow citizens.

"I recognize, in particular, that the £6,000 limit has been the cause of concern. I am responding to those concerns today by increasing this limit to £8,000.

The increase in the disregard to £8,000 would bring considerable extra help to a further 100,000 people. The Government would quickly consult local authorities and introduce regulations to effect the change as soon as possible. It would cost £30 million.



Mr Cook: Government's ignominious retreat

which case it was cruel to have persevered with them and dishonest to have concealed it from their backbenchers, or they did not know, in which case somebody along the line had been guilty of incompetence on a heroic scale.

"I believe it is wholly unjust and unreasonable to say to people with modest savings of £3,000 to £5,000 that they should be treated as if they were receiving interest of 20 per cent per annum.

All the evidence coming in was that the proposals had resulted in financial cuts far in excess of the Government's estimates.

Data had been provided by local authorities that had completed the transfer of claimants



Lord Wilson of Rievaulx (left), the former Prime Minister, and his wife with Mr Enoch Powell and Mrs Powell at the exhibition in London of oil paintings by Lord Paget of Northampton

Free vote 'would kill community charge'

If a free vote were allowed in the Commons on the community charge it would be dead and buried, Mr Donald Dewar, chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland, said during question time in the Commons.

The issue was raised by Mr James Wray (Glasgow Provan, Lab) who was told by Mr Ian Lang, Minister of State for Scotland, that those registering for purposes of the charge would be required to add details of their dates of birth.

Mr Wray said that that was a scandalous infringement of privacy. What guarantee of confidentiality was there in this system thought up by the Secretary of State for Scotland?

Mr Lang said that there was nothing extraordinary in the inclusion of dates of birth. It happened to everyone soon after they were born. Access to the information was already closely restricted by the Act.

Sir Hector Monro (Dumfries, C) said that local income tax, as advocated by the SLD, the SNP and many socialists, would require far more individual detail than was required by the community charge.

Mr Lang said that that was right. It might not require the

SCOTLAND

information should be made available to local councils.

Mr Lang said that that was right. Registration officers in England and Wales would be empowered to seek the information they required, including dates of birth.

Mr Dewar asked whether the inquiry form being sent out by registration officers mentioned the designation of the responsible person. Did the right of appeal arise at this stage? Was it necessary to include details about date of birth? Was not tagging every adult with a logarithm an intrusive arrangement and an invasion of privacy?

Was it not time that Scottish Office ministers followed the example of their backbench colleagues in their opposition to the proposal? The public was against the whole scheme and it should now be abandoned.

Mr Lang said that designation did not begin with the issue of the canvass form. That was to enable registration officers to designate the responsible person.

The inclusion of dates of birth had been done at the request of local authority practitioners in Scotland.

Local income tax, which is preferred by other parties, would require far more details about individuals

Settle line £1½m offer considered

The Government is considering a conditional offer by local authorities in the North-west of £500,000 towards the cost of restoring the Ribbleshead Viaduct in Cumbria, which carries the Settle to Carlisle railway line, Mr David Mitchell, Minister of State for Transport, said in a written reply.

The conditions are that British Rail continues to operate the line; the line's future is guaranteed for 20 years; the contribution is "one off"; and the revenue support contributions already agreed for the next two years will not be extended beyond that period.

Watching too closely

More than 50,000 neighbourhood watch schemes were now operating, twice as many as 12 months ago, Earl Ferrers, Minister of State, Home Office, told peers during questions.

Lord Melloy (Lab) disclosed, however, that he had been burgled four times since he joined such a scheme. On the last occasion, last Thursday, the police officer suggested that maybe there were too many watch-scheme stickers on his window.

New leaflets

A new set of translations of the social security leaflet, *Which Benefit?* is to be produced later this year in Urdu, Hindi, Gujarati, Bengali, Punjabi, Chinese and Turkish, Mr Michael Portillo, Under Secretary of State, Social Security, said in a Commons written reply.

Farm control

All manufacturers of medicated feedstuffs for livestock will be required to register and will have to agree to abide by a code of practice, Mr Donald Thompson, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, said in a written Commons reply.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Northern Ireland; Prime Minister. Copy-right, Designs and Patents Bill, second reading. Motion on summer time order. Lords: Housing (Scotland) Bill, committee, third day.

Immunity for INF inspectors

An order giving Soviet inspectors diplomatic privileges and immunities in Britain while carrying out verification under the terms of the INF treaty was passed without a vote late on Tuesday.

It was moved by Mr David Mellor, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who said that, according to all the indications, the United States Senate would overwhelmingly in favour of the treaty within the next few weeks.

The US and the Soviet Union would exchange instruments of ratification during President Reagan's visit to Moscow at the end of May.

The boundary fence at the Ministry of Defence Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston is to be improved, Mr Timothy Sainsbury, Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, said in a written reply.

Scots pupils cost £424 a year more

EDUCATION

It costs £424 more a year to educate a secondary school pupil in Scotland than it does in England, Mr Michael Forsyth, under Secretary of State for Scotland, said during questions.

Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing North, C) said that the winning Labour Party in Scotland should tell the public the facts.

"Scots cannot be basically a nation of slow learners or of less fundamental intelligence than the English, Welsh or Irish; therefore, why are they having so much more spent per pupil?"

Mr Forsyth: I am delighted to be precise about the reasons for that.

However, he added, among the reasons might be that in Scotland we have a larger number of teachers per pupil, we have higher secondary teacher salaries and we have had less success than in England in reducing surplus places.

But the most important factor

Labour 'a party of dinosaurs'

This year, the Chancellor was planning a public sector debt repayment of £3 billion, by any yardstick a remarkable achievement.

"Only the British Labour Party retains its dinosaur attitude to tax reductions."

Mr Gordon Brown, an Opposition spokesman on economic affairs, said that Mr Major's description of an economic miracle included two and a half million people unemployed and 18 million people living on low incomes.

He had gone out of his way to avoid mentioning the central fact that, taking together the top-rate tax reductions and the other changes implemented by Conservative chancellors since 1979, the top 1 per cent had received more than the rest of the people of Britain put together. A total of £2,100 million was being given away this year to those previously on the top rate of taxation.

The fundamental feature of this Finance Bill is the growing gap between rich and poor that will result from the tax changes. It is this commitment to widening inequality, even at the cost of increasing poverty, that infuses every measure.

The Bill was read a second time by 251 votes to 201. Government majority, 50.

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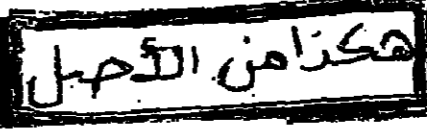
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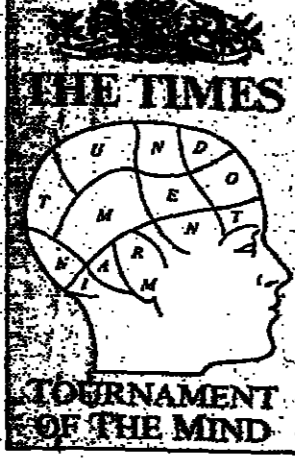
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SPECTRUM



Mind of the Year

There were 225 questions — and tournament winner Malcolm Girling got 224 right to become The Times Mind of the Year



Malcolm Girling was in many ways uniquely well placed to become the first winner of the individual section of The Times Tournament of the Mind.

about beating the man who set the questions. That was what gave me the real pleasure.

Winchester School and New College, Oxford. I was nowhere near the answer.



Malcolm Girling, and the books which took him to the top

INGENUITY

Starting next week in The Times: INGENUITY, a new competition to test your mental ability — with prizes worth more than £13,000.

An apiarist who was helped to the top by a man who died in 1986.

INDIVIDUAL FINALS — THE ANSWERS

- DAY 1
Puzzles: 1 15. 2 SMEW and MEWS (alternatives were given but in the opinion of the judges the direct relationship between "mews" and "horses" was not repeated in these).

Settle line £1/2m offer considered

The Government is considering a conditional offer by local authorities in the North-west of £300,000 towards the cost of restoring the Ribbleshead Viaduct in Cumbria, which carries the Settle to Carlisle railway line.

Watching too closely

Mr. Michael Douglas's parents divorced when he was six, and he grew up in the eastern United States with his mother, Diana, who acted in the theatre.

New leaflets

Mr. Michael Douglas's parents divorced when he was six, and he grew up in the eastern United States with his mother, Diana, who acted in the theatre.

Farm control

Mr. Michael Douglas's parents divorced when he was six, and he grew up in the eastern United States with his mother, Diana, who acted in the theatre.

Parliament today

Mr. Michael Douglas's parents divorced when he was six, and he grew up in the eastern United States with his mother, Diana, who acted in the theatre.

inosaurs

Mr. Michael Douglas's parents divorced when he was six, and he grew up in the eastern United States with his mother, Diana, who acted in the theatre.

From wild side to Wall Street

Michael Douglas seems a reasonable, sensible actor. And one of the more sensible things about him is his public attitude to his father.

THE TIMES PROFILE MICHAEL DOUGLAS

He did 104 one-hour shows, working a six-day week of up to 16 hours a day for eight months at a stretch.

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Oscars, including a Best Picture for himself as producer. For an independent producer, working outside the studio system for the first time, the success was remarkable.

His next film, The China Syndrome, like Cuckoo, combined strong entertainment with a social conscience, this time about the nuclear industry.

Romancing the Stone, and its sequel, The Jewel of the Nile, in which he was again producer/actor, may well be seen as relaxations, and indeed their whole tone of ease and amiability in the face of danger suggest a man coasting through the sort of thrills that would have inspired his father to lose a finger.

And now, at the age of 43, he is offered a plum prize paid at Sotheby's New York last week, and the Aga Khan's grandfather's gems coming up at Christie's, Geneva, on May 12.



both more and less interesting than has been noticed. Less interesting in that Grand Guignol melodrama does better by discarding realism as in such films as Whatever Happened to Baby Jane.

shape after a little philandering. If Close is the story's main edifice, Douglas is its bedrock.



from Burt Lancaster's J.J. Hunsecker in Sweet Smell of Success to Kirk Douglas's venal reporter, Chuck Tatum, in Ace in the Hole.

BIOGRAPHY
1944 Born September 25, eldest son of Kirk/Diana Douglas

TOMORROW

Randolph Quirk on grammar. Does it matter? And if it does, how should it be taught?



CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1551

ACROSS
1 Printing sanction (10)
8 Localised (7)
9 Essential (5)
10 Bricks oven (4)
11 Prism output (8)
12 Page (5)
14 Score (5)
16 Sedateness (8)
18 Wander (4)
21 High icy clouds (5)
22 Violent cyclone (7)
23 Comment critics (10)

DOWN
1 Yield to (7)
2 Ceremonial splendour (4)
3 Disabled (13)
4 Cause advancer (8)
5 Publish (5)
6 Stream (4)
7 Moist (6)
12 Hopefulness (8)
13 Fundamental principles (6)
15 Concave (7)
17 Powerful financier (5)
19 Repair (4)
20 Church recess (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1550
ACROSS: 3 Hope 5 Plot 8 Agaba 10 Banister 11 Lige 12 Sun 13 Ches 14 Assured 16 Piccolo 15 Oscar 20 Pad 21 Unit 22 Section 24 Obese 25 None 26 Deriv

Are diamonds really a girl's best friend?

The diamond season is upon us, with a \$9 million record price paid at Sotheby's New York last week, and the Aga Khan's grandfather's gems coming up at Christie's, Geneva, on May 12.



SARAH JANE CHECKLAND A weekly look at the art world

How can we explain the hold this glittering prize has on our society, from the wealthy clientele of Bond Street to the secretaries who peer wistfully through the windows of Hatton Garden during their lunch hours?

But the diamond's current popularity has much to do with the seductive marketing techniques of the industry, starting off exactly 50 years ago with these now famous words: "A diamond is forever."

early last month on the commemoration of the firm's 100th anniversary, was actually mined two years ago, then boarded.



Glittering: the late Begum Aga Khan with her stepson, Prince Ali Khan. She is wearing some of the family diamonds and emeralds to be auctioned at Christie's

show at Spink, India was for 2,000 years, until 1725, the only major source of diamonds in the world.

Most fascinating is the way in which the Indians used jewellery in which to reflect their beliefs about the universe.

These, in brief, were that the universe contains nine planets, each personified by an astral deity. Each of the deities had a particular gemstone associated with it, and the disposition of these jewels could bring about "cosmic harmony" in the life of the wearer.

TIMES DIARY

RICHARD COBB

I have always been very much in favour of the Channel Tunnel and hope to live long enough to take the train from London to Paris. I was reminded of this when I made the Channel crossing by ferry this month. In the Thirties, and again, in the mid-Forties and the Fifties, I was quite happy with the cross-Channel boats, especially by Newhaven-Dieppe (the best entrance to France) but that was before the big car ferries (named, no doubt deliberately, after craggy sounding pre-Conquest Saxon kings), bingo, and the multiple discomforts guaranteed by Sealink, especially to the degraded foot passengers, last on, last off, the P&O of both the short and the long cross-Channel routes.

For the Channel Tunnel to be efficient and agreeable, one condition would have to be laid down from the start. It would have to be operated over the whole route by the SNCF. The slogan would be: "France starts at Victoria". Then there would be the same comforting sense of having jumped the gun and got away from the island while still actually on the island, as one used to feel when checking in on a single-berth wagon-lit on the old nine o'clock night ferry: the dark blue and gold carriages of that splendid Belgian enterprise.

One of the brown uniformed *contrôleurs*, most of whom appeared to be French, anyway were French speaking, and who, in humbler moments, stoked the coke-burning stove at the end of the carriage, looked up one's name on a list, one handed in one's passport, and one was woken by a discreet tap on the door of the compartment at about 7am. The blind, pulled up a little, would reveal, flying past, the wide, flat plains of the Pays de France.

Going by Channel could never be as leisurely and as painless as that. But the important thing would be to keep British Rail out of it the whole way: an SNCF-type TGV would be waiting at its special platform at Victoria, and it would be operated exclusively by SNCF personnel. Then there would be a reasonable chance that the train would both leave and arrive on time. No "BR regrets..."

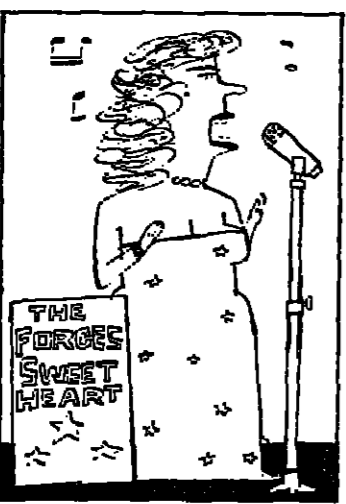
But I don't think for a moment that it will work out that way. BR will insist on holding on to its chunk of the journey. I expect it will turn out that the agency will be even more prolonged than at present, and that one will be jerked and shuddered the whole way through the tunnel, the dirty plastic cups rolling merrily between one's feet, and then obliged to change trains at Calais. Still, even that is better than being a proletarian, despised "foot passenger", last on, last off.

Returning to Bayeux during my recent holiday, I was immediately struck by the way the place absolutely bristled with little white signposts. Of course there had been a good many of these at the entrances and exits of the town in the summer of 1944, the last time I was there; but these had been in English, or rather in a sort of military code made up of numbers and initials and divisional signs. Now they are all in French, most of them, working from the outskirts inwards, steadily towards the centre, as if they had been an invading force, pointed to la Tapissierie.

In the centre there were signposts attached to lamp-posts, some to trees every few yards. It looked as if the town had actually been built around it. It certainly seems to live off it, even to thrive on it. In the summer of 1944 the tapestry had remained hidden, only a very few people knew just where; I was told later that it had been put away in a high-walled convent. The Germans had searched for it for four years, Goering wanting it for his art collection. I think it was taken out of hiding in about 1947.

The signposts pointing to la Tapissierie had spawned other signposts that appeared to be growing on sign-post trees, pointing wildly in every direction to pizza bars, snacks, sandwiches, restaurants, souvenir shops (selling long cardboard pull-outs of the tapestry). The proximity of la Tapissierie could be measured further by the increasing concentration of school buses with French and English number-plates, and by the crowds of children being herded towards the rather handsome 18th-century building that housed the precious yards of silk. It was part of the municipal library, and faced on to the Hôtel-Dieu, where there was less activity.

BARRY FANTONI



'There'll be blue helmets over the white cliffs of Dover...'

I was told that one could "do" the tapestry—including the visual and aural aids and a preliminary talk in a choice of four languages at the press of a button—in about 11 minutes (taking the Conquest at a pretty spanking pace. I would have thought). As the schoolchildren filed into, then out of, the tapestry section, two hearses, each with a coffin and yellow curtains and accompanied by men in blue uniforms with silver emblems on their peaked caps, came apologetically out of the nearby hospital. The two in the coffins had presumably been Bayesians, and would have seen the tapestry; if they hadn't, they had missed the chance for good.

I thought I would give the tapestry a miss. It could wait for another time: mid-November seemed indicated.

Before leaving the town I left a copy of my book, *People and Places*, in the part of the library not occupied by la Tapissierie. I told an assistant that there was piece in it about Bayeux. The room was full of children getting out Tintin and Asterix. I expect they had become a bit blasé about the thing next door.

As Saudi Arabia breaks off relations with Iran the tensions within Islam continue to increase. The breakdown comes only months before the pilgrimage to Mecca when thousands will arrive at the holy city.

Nine times the size of Great Britain and one fourth the size of the United States, but with an indigenous population of less than 7 million, the kingdom dominates the Arabian peninsula but is a troubled giant.

While the West has long appreciated its strategic pre-eminence in the region and the western industrialized nations physically experienced Saudi's enormous influence among the Opec countries in the 1970s, it is often overlooked that the king also carries responsibilities for two of the principal holy shrines in Islamic civilization, Mecca and Medina.

This latter role as protector or, more accurately, servant, of the holy cities has been challenged in the past, but never as violently as by the Iranian revolutionaries headed by Ayatollah Khomeini.

These challenges are sometimes based on internal grievances (such as the 1979 assault on Mecca), but more often on Islamic doctrinal differences, or simply on a direct challenge to the Royal House of Saud (it was only in mid-1924 that King Ibn Saud captured the two holy cities

and two years later proclaimed himself King of the Hejaz). After centuries of Turkish hegemony (however nominal) over the two cities their re-capture by conservative Arab Muslims, known as the Muwahhidun—or unitarians—of central Saudi Arabia was not only historically significant but signalled the reassertion of the Arab Islamic community at a time when most of the Middle Eastern states were ruled by Europeans who were gradually westernizing their societies.

While Saudi Arabia during the 1950s and '60s was shrouded in mystery and known only to those in the oil industry, a few diplomats, and perhaps a few western traders, the kingdom quietly but forcefully asserted its place in the political arena.

Under the adroit and dignified leadership of King Faisal, it became first a political then an economic focal point for not only regional states but for the Western powers, especially the US.

Hans-Heino Kopietz on Saudi Arabia's break with Tehran

The crisis facing Mecca



Mecca: the Iranians' proposed battleground

By the end of 1973, at the time of the first oil shock, all eyes were on Saudi Arabia—and that despite the continuing drama in Vietnam. Her newly found political and economic prestige, however, also forced on to her new responsibilities.

In response to the massive militarization of Iran, the Shah's ambitious regional plans and Iraq's radical and revolutionary stance with equally unbridled ambitions in the region, the Gulf

regime had seized power in Iran; while the new regime may not have territorial ambitions as such, Tehran has posed a major threat to Saudi Arabia.

This fundamental divergence between Sunni Islam, as practised in Saudi Arabia, and Shia Islam, as practised in Iran, lies in the question of *Imamate*, or the succession to the Prophet. In the eyes of the Ayatollah and his followers present-day Islamic regions are decadent and straying from the Prophet's principles. In his view governments should be entrusted to the religious leaders. This is a direct challenge to all states, especially the Saudi kingdom since it is the servant of the holy places.

During the eight and a half years since Iraq attacked Iran, Saudi Arabia along with her neighbours has maintained normal but tense diplomatic relations with Iran. This is something which western observers have found difficult to understand, especially as Saudi Arabia has supported Iraq

against Iran. Yet it was a prudent policy since it helped to contain the war to the northern end of the Gulf.

Events in the past year however have made this policy impossible. Iran's challenge to the Saudis has become intolerable. Despite the violence in Mecca during the pilgrimage last summer the Saudi kingdom remained relatively restrained. With the *haj* (the pilgrimage) only a few weeks away and the Iranians insist on sending at least 150,000 pilgrims with avowed instructions to demonstrate against the royal house, the kingdom's patience has come to an end.

The war itself is a tragedy. To bring this conflict into the sanctity of the holy cities compounds it. For the Saudi government not to take precautionary measures would be foolhardy and tantamount to giving up its claim to the guardianship of the holy cities. Not to react to recent Iranian challenges would be impolitic. The irony, however, is that despite massive investment in the military, the acquisition of Tornado aircraft and Chinese missiles, an ideological war cannot be fought by these means. That is the lesson the Greeks called *Prometheus bound*.

The author is an analyst at the *International Institute for Strategic Studies*.

Bernard Levin

All the world's a cage



Last week, on Shakespeare's birthday, I went to the Barbican to see the RSC production of *The Merchant of Venice*. Immediately before the entire cast assembled on the stage, and Mr Anthony Sher, who plays Shylock, stepped forward, looking quite immensely pleased with himself, to read a statement—no, a Statement, if not a STATEMENT.

He began with a few improvised words of his own, which seemed designed to add a touch of informality to the proceedings, though the only thing he conclusively demonstrated was that he doesn't know how to pronounce "controversy", and then proceeded to the Statement which, he had said in his introduction, was being read out from all the RSC's five stages (three in Stratford and two in London) simultaneously.

There appear to have been two such announcements, similar but not identical, they are too long to quote in their entirety, but I shall give the gist.

The Shakespeare play at Stratford on the Saturday evening nearest to the Bard's birthday is always designated the Birthday Performance, and it is preceded by a number of ceremonies during the day; these include the flying of the flags of all the world's nations from an avenue of flagpoles. There is also a procession, a lunch, and other jollifications, and every nation is invited to send a representative.

Many send their ambassador or high commissioner.

It could not last. Two years ago a number of the nations invited refused to participate in the ceremonies because South Africa, in common with all the other nations of the earth, had been included in the list, and had signified its intention to be represented. Last year the number which had succumbed to a fit of the South African sulks had risen substantially, and this year the number had grown greater still. Some of those which refused to send a representative did allow their flag to be flown,

but many refused even that concession, so that the brave display of national colours was greatly attenuated.

So much for the background and the factual matter in the statements. Now let me quote the opinions:

It is offensive for members of a multi-racial company to perform Shakespeare's Birthday Performance in the formal presence of a representative of the regime which supports apartheid... The Royal Shakespeare Theatre's view of its moral and legal responsibilities... has caused the withdrawal of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre since last year from participation in the organisation of the Celebrations.

From next year the RSC will take steps to eliminate the possibility of having a Birthday Performance attended by a representative of the South African government.

It remains only to record that the performers later announced that they would donate their fees for the Birthday Performance to the Defence and Aid Fund (a worthy and respectable cause).

These are democratic days, and an actor has the right to be as ignorant as anyone else. But let me draw your attention to one word in the announcement put out by the RSC—the most common word in the language, yet here crammed with significant meaning. The players find it "offensive" to play to "a representative of the regime which supports apartheid".

The regime? THE regime? THE regime? Do they really believe that South Africa's racial policies are unique, so that once its evil servants have been ejected from the Birthday Celebrations in Stratford, or perhaps preferably from the whole of Warwickshire, if not the universe, the merriment can go on in the certainty that all sin has been banished from the streets of Shakespeare's town?

Let us, confining the issue to racial discrimination and oppression, and in alphabetical order, list a few nations which have rather more relevance to matters concerning apartheid than the Royal Shakespeare

Company might feel happy to contemplate, some of them unwilling to stare so much as a box of chocolates in the theatre with a South African representative. I take many of the details of my list from Charles Humana's indispensable *World Human Rights Guide*, now published by *The Economist*, a work as accurate as it is impartial.

The Bolivian flag flew on the Birthday, yet the *Guide* reports that Amerindians have "second class status". Happy to play before a Bolivian-razed audience, are we, lads and ladies? Or Bulgaria, which refused its flag air-space, but oppresses its racial minorities ("... social and educational penalties... forced changes of names from the original ethnic ones..."). Or—here's a biggie, boys and girls—China, which has destroyed almost the entire indigenous culture of Tibet, together with a large proportion

of the Tibetan people, and which has got quite far in its programme of erasing the very notion of Tibet from the earth.

Untroubled, are we, by the presence of the Chinese ambassador in our theatre, provided the South African one is thrown out? Or another biggie coming up—Ethiopia. President Botha is a right bastard, no doubt of it, but he isn't waging a war of genocidal extermination, and Brother Mengistu is, (Yes, yes, chaps—he's only a dorkie, and doesn't know any better—was that what you were going to say?)

And what about India? True, successive prime ministers have flapped an irritated hand at the caste system from time to time, but nothing serious has been done about a system of discrimination that would have Pretoria's ambassador thrown to the swans in Stratford if you actor-johnnies had your way.

Indonesia? Ethnic oppression (oh, I can bandy jargon with the best) from one end of the

country to the other. The Indonesians stayed away from the Bardfest, you may be sure. But would you have had no qualms if they had been there? Or Iraq? Another case of genocide here, the victims this time being the Kurds; the high-minded Iraqis stayed away, of course. (The Iraqis didn't even reply to the invitation; they were probably too busy genociding such Kurds as the Iraqis had missed.)

Here's a lovely one: Israel. Leave out the recent horrors in the Gaza Strip; there can be no doubt that the Israeli majority discriminates against the Arabs. The trouble with including Israel, though, is that many of you strolling players would like to ban its representatives anyway, but that would spoil the symmetry of your South African case besides opening the door to the kind of catalogue I have been compiling. Mind you, the Soviet Union discriminates against Jews, indeed institutionalizes anti-semitism, so maybe you

think that even the score.

Kenya, Liberia and Zaire all practise racial discrimination, and Zimbabwe goes in for genocide too, though it has tailed off lately, possibly because Mr Mugabe can't find any more Matabele to murder. And what about Pakistan, Romania, Sri Lanka (where mutual racism has wiped out many a Shakespeare-lover, and lots more folk besides) and Vietnam?

Vietnam? Vietnam? Do I dare to say that that paradise on earth practises ethnic apartheid? Alas, I do, for it does (against the Chinese, among others), and there the Vietnamese were, boycotting the Birthday Boy like billy-o because of the presence of a South African in the audience.

And note that I have restricted myself entirely to racial discrimination and oppression; I have ignored the countless other crimes against liberty of all kinds that are committed by scores of countries throughout the world, many of them far worse than the worst the South Africans have ever achieved.

What, then, is the answer? The answer that is from those actors and actresses of the RSC who strain at the camel of South Africa and swallow a whole herd of camels throughout the world? If apartheid is uniquely evil, why are its manifestations ignored everywhere except in that one country? If race is the only test, why are dozens of countries which fail it excused, and only one charged? If the world must unite against South African wickedness, why may it ignore those other nations who practise the same wickedness? If the presence of a South African at Shakespeare's birthday celebration will poison the entire day, why do the other tainted wethers serve only to sweeten the air?

I don't know. But part of the answer may be that the actors and actresses of the Royal Shakespeare Company should find out a little more about the world before condemning one, and only one, part of it.

Commentary • RONALD BUTT

Tories and chips

When Norman Tebbit delivered the inaugural lecture for a new body called the Radical Society there was a large and apparently mainly Tory audience. But on the platform the apostle of pure self-help Thatcherism was surrounded by people whose roots were in what used to be called the social democratic wing of the Labour Party and who had, for the most part, either graduated to the old, pre-split SDP and stayed there or had moved on to the Tories.

These included Neville Sandelson, the former Labour MP later expelled from the old SDP for his "Vote Tory" call, the former Labour minister, John Horam, who has moved to the Tories via the SDP and now articulates Thatcherism as to the manner born, and Stephen Haseler, the former Labour G.I.C. councillor who became a Social Democrat with strong emotional ties to the American Right.

Normally it was an all or a non-party occasion with, even as Mr Tebbit revealed later on television, a member of the Labour Party on the platform. Asked who that was he replied, with his inimitable double-edged smile, that he thought that Lord Chapple was "still a member of the Labour Party", which was no doubt interesting news to many.

The best way to understand what the group is about is to meditate on the names of the formation committee. This includes Lord Marsh, who used to make no bones when he was a Labour minister about his preference for being a tycoon, and Brian Walden. But to leave us in no doubt, Mr Tebbit explained. The Radical Society believes in the market. Socialism could now be pronounced brain-dead

even if its limbs still twitched (the ex-socialists on the platform smiled with pleasure at this macabre metaphor). Post-war Conservatives, he said, had assumed the self-imposed task of administering the system they had inherited but this corporatist, class-ridden consensus had failed and had been finally routed by Thatcherism.

"The middle-class, middle-aged membership, deferential to the class-based structure of the pre-war Conservatives, has been pushed aside by younger, sharper mercenaries of working-class origin." But class barriers and barriers of snobbery still had to be broken down.

Here one began to see that a good deal of the cement uniting Mr Tebbit with his strange social democratic (and ex-socialist) bedfellows is provided by class. Preoccupation with class was always what motivated those middle-class (Croslandite) socialists who defected to the SDP but who in their own day had been pathfinders for comprehensive education and abolishing grammar and even independent schools. Their hearts had also been in the building of council tower blocks which Mr Tebbit now denounced as paternalistic.

Yet they now smiled blithely when Mr Tebbit told a joke which described extremist socialists as those who wanted to abolish independent schools and moderates as those who wanted to wait until their own children had finished there. They also nodded sagely as he condemned (their) tower blocks.

There is much to be said for converts and everything for a Toryism that admits people from all classes. But then it

always has. Whether, however, the Tory party will prosper as a pushing and shoving party, knowing the price of everything and the value of little, and which is contemptuous of social structure is another matter.

The next day, John Stokes, an old-style paternalist right-wing Tory if ever there was one, who sits for a working-class seat, asked the Prime Minister in the Commons whether, in view of Mr Tebbit's speech, there was room in the Tory party still for the nobility, gentry and the middle classes. It was a funny way to put it but one grasps the point. It is right for the Tories to be open and flexible about class but it is quite the wrong moment to start talking a new kind of "overturning" class rhetoric from the right. There is much to be said for a bit of social stability with the push and shove.

Mr Tebbit is also worried that we still lack a coherent alternative to Tory government which accepts the market economy. Certainly a decent opposition is in the national interest and every government benefits from one. Whether it is the business of a Conservative ex-Cabinet minister to help conjure up an opposition is a matter of opinion, but with his well-known political altruism Mr Tebbit seems to be attempting it.

I doubt, however, whether he will produce it from the majority of those around him in the Radical Society even if, in the manner of converts, they are now *plus Thatcheriste que la Reine*. For it was their attitudes to class and planning which largely got us into the mess from which we have begun to emerge. Less talk about class is what is needed, not more.

SCIENCE REPORT

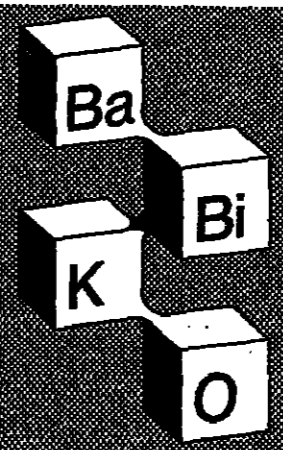
Super heat race

US researchers have entered a new kind of ceramic in the race to find materials that become superconductors at ever higher temperatures. Although the material must be cooled before it loses its electrical resistance it is lower than that of others reported in the past year, it is remarkable because it contains no copper.

The two-year race has seen transition temperatures—the temperature below which a material loses its resistance to electricity—raised from 23K (-250C) to 125K (-146C)—the highest confirmed transition temperature for a ceramic made of copper oxide, calcium, barium and thallium.

In *Nature* this week R.J. Cava and colleagues at the AT&T Bell Laboratories in New Jersey reports the onset of superconductivity at about 30K (-243C) in barium potassium bismuth oxide, which researchers believe could pre-empt a new class of superconducting ceramic.

The material is closely related to the 12K superconductor, barium lead bismuth oxide, discovery of which in 1975 led superconductor pioneers Bednorz and Müller to investigate mixed copper oxide ceramics. Since their 1986 breakthrough, research into bismuth oxide-based superconductors has fallen by the wayside. But T.M. Rice, of the Theoretical Physics Institute in Zurich, says the latest work establishes bismuth oxides as "the clear runner-up to copper oxide".



The first of the new "high temperature" superconductors were mixed oxides of copper and "rare earths" such as lanthanum or yttrium. Bednorz and Müller's lanthanum-based material became a superconductor at about 40K (-233C). Four months later, an yttrium-based material with a transition temperature above the boiling point of nitrogen (77K) was discovered by C.W. Chu and colleagues at the University of Houston.

A year-long stall at around 90K was broken by Hiroshi Maeda in Japan, who achieved even higher transition temperatures by substituting the metal bismuth for the rare earths. Science Report, March 4. Hot on his heels, Z.Z. Sheng and A.M. Hermann, of the University of Arkansas, reported superconductivity on-set at 81K—revised the following week to 120K—in a

rare earth-free system based on thallium.

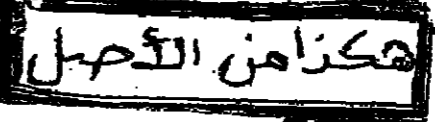
Rice says that although the new bismuth compounds and the copper-based substances belong to the class of minerals called perovskite, they are different in structure. The bismuth compounds have a three-dimensional structure in contrast with the two-dimensional, layered structure of the copper oxide superconductors. But whether they share the same mechanism of superconductivity is unknown. It is hoped that the prospect of more copper-free, high temperature superconductors will make it easier to find out why some materials superconduct at high temperatures while others do not.

A material becomes a superconductor when it loses all electrical resistance. Electricity flows through the material without loss of energy. But until quite recently superconductor research has been under the exclusive purview of those working on the behaviour of matter at ultralow temperatures, close to absolute zero (about -273C), the temperature at which materials lose their electrical resistance.

The ultimate prize will be a material which superconducts at room temperature. Researchers are still 150C short of the target, and the promise of a new class of material to stand beside copper oxide ceramics means that no clear winners are yet in sight.

HENRY GEE

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hair of the dog - and others

From Mr Richard J. Martin

Sir, Usually the 40 million or so British sheep and their wonderfully diverse fleeces are quite sufficient to provide the raw material for our wool textile industry...

Dilemma over electricity industry

From the General Secretary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association

Sir, I was surprised to read your report (April 22) on the views of the Association for the Conservation of Energy (Ace) about the US regulatory system for electrical utilities.

Role of Lords in poll tax clash

From Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, KG, CH

Sir, Despite his undoubted brilliance, courtesy and charm, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead (April 26) is rather out of his depth in constitutional matters.

BREAKING WITH KHOMEINI

The decision by Saudi Arabia to break off diplomatic relations with Iran is the culmination of 12 months of bitter argument between the leaders of modern Islam. But its causes are rooted much more deeply in the past - and its impact on future developments in the Gulf could have effects far into the future.

After several years of increasing violence during the haj, the grand annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, a climax was reached last July when more than 400 people died in riots. That the disturbances were masterminded from Tehran has never been doubted.

The cause of the breakdown lay in Tehran's refusal to co-operate with Riyadh's policy of limiting the numbers on this year's haj. Ayatollah Khomeini's insistence on dispatching around 150,000 to the holy places in 10 weeks' time has carried a further threat to hard-pressed Saudi security.

This is not, however, the only quarrel between them. Saudi suspicion of Iranian expansionist plans in the Gulf was evident during the reign of the late Shah. Since his overthrow in 1979, inspired by Shia Muslim fundamentalism, the revolutionary fervour of the mullahs and their hostility to those who stand in their way has threatened not only the external security of the conservative Gulf States, but their internal stability too.

It was this fear, rather than any feeling of Arab or Sunni solidarity, which led them to support Iraq during the Gulf War. Iranian recriminations against Iraq's allies, against Kuwait as well as Saudi Arabia, have served only to widen the gap between them.

SWEET LESSONS

Television viewers are nightly being addressed by successful businessmen presenting Government advertisements for the opportunities offered by the single European market after 1992.

As the balance sheet stands today, the threats look greater than the opportunities likely to be seized. British companies, and particularly the financial sector which largely controls their shares, are latecomers to thinking in European terms.

There has been a dramatic lesson on the 'stock market this week. It now seems more likely than not that both the leading British confectionery firms, Cadbury Schweppes and Rowntree Mackintosh, will end up in foreign control in a matter of weeks.

That control may, in fact, be foreign even to the financially united European Community, for the bidders and declared suitors are headquartered in Switzerland and the United States respectively. (The American group staking Cadbury Schweppes may have sensed the potential to sell its famous chocolate division to whichever Swiss firm is disappointed in its bid for Rowntrees.)

In the past the food industry has been forced as much as any to treat each European country as a separate market with different regulations. This is carried to an extreme in the chocolate business, where non-tariff barriers in Belgium, Germany and other member states are even worse than in the rest of the world.

The two takeover targets are successful

companies which are also in a good position to take advantage of the breakdown of barriers. They have strong brand names, in some cases of world stature, built up over decades of skilful marketing.

Even the largest industrial companies now understand that to compete successfully in this new environment, it is better to build strong positions in a world market, however specialised, than to try to produce everything for the home market.

Few of the financial institutions which control the destiny of British companies have made that transition. World brands attract little awe on the stock market, where the loyalty that makes them almost priceless is viewed as sentiment rather than virtue.

Rowntrees' small shareholders demonstrated at their annual meeting that their company could remain independent if the decision were in their hands. But they have little more influence than the consumers who react with shock, sometimes misplaced, at such financial moves.

These two particular companies have a special place in popular feeling because of their owners' non-conformist social responsibility in the era before the welfare state. Their fate may therefore give a more powerful message about the changing climate of European business than all the Government's efforts.

FROM POLITICS TO OLYMPICS

The poor showing by President Roh Tae Woo's Democratic Justice Party in South Korea's parliamentary elections is a good sign for the fledgling South Korean democracy.

Whether the results of the elections will make a major contribution to the good of South Korea in the longer term is another matter. Neither the governing Democratic Justice Party of President Roh Tae Woo, nor the two main opposition parties together have gained an absolute majority.

The government is appointed by the President and he will be able to rule even without a parliamentary majority, but its position is likely to become increasingly uncomfortable. It may seek to do a deal with Mr Kim Jong Pil, or with either of the main opposition parties, the Party for Peace and Democracy of Mr Kim Dae Jung, and the Reunification Democratic Party of Mr Kim Young Sam, which are at odds with each other.

Although they may be competing for a share of the power, the parties take a similar approach to economic and social questions. The great national issue - reunification with the North - is unlikely to return to the

agenda soon, so they can well agree to differ on how to pursue it.

Moreover, despite considerable popular hostility to the United States, neither of the opposition parties has adopted an anti-American stance. Their leaders may recall that American intervention saved them on occasion from imprisonment and worse under the previous military government.

The real divisions between the parties result from the events of the past decades, and reflect their divergent views of military involvement in government. Mr Roh Tae Woo is the direct successor of the military government.

Mr Kim Dae Jung, in particular, sees himself duty bound to seek a full inquiry into the savage suppression of the Kwangju disturbances in 1980, since the bulk of his support comes from that area.

With the Olympics approaching, South Korea will be in the eyes of the world. This should moderate the behaviour of all parties. In particular, they must be encouraged to keep their power struggles confined to Parliament, and away from the streets.

They must never lose sight of the tyranny to the north. South Koreans have a special interest in the stability of their reborn democracy, won at considerable human cost. They should exercise every restraint to make sure that it survives.

Recasting Nato

From Mr Frank Allaun

Sir, Your leader of April 25 comments on the Thatcher Government's decision to postpone all NATO talks until the Danish election...

The defence of Denmark means almost as much to the Danes themselves as it does to the rest of Europe. It is impossible to defend Denmark - or Europe - with nuclear weapons.

NATO plans for reinforcement of Denmark in wartime would have to be scrapped if they refused nuclear armed ships, your editorial continues. And about time.

Archbishop's visit

From Bishop Restieaux

Sir, In your excellent obituary of Archbishop Ramsey (April 25) you are mistaken in saying that his visit to Pope Paul in March, 1966, was without precedent since the Reformation.

When I had an audience with Pope John in June, 1960, he told me that he had just received a letter from Archbishop Fisher suggesting that he would like to visit him in Rome, which he actually did on December 2 of the same year.

Some years later I met Archbishop Fisher at Sherborne, and he spoke with enthusiasm of his pleasure at having been the first Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury to talk to the Pope.

Order of service

From the Reverend B. T. Croft

Sir, Today I had an excellent bar lunch at the King's Arms in Oxford, with Alan Corea's diary piece about his return visit there (April 20) in mind.

Enter the Metaphor

From Mrs H. Green

Sir, Mr Bromley (April 25) should add to his list of Met. Office metaphors clouds that will 'bubble up' to produce 'more organised' showers.

Littering up the place

From Mr R. J. Mehta

Sir, Our office driver in Singapore was fined quite heavily for throwing a half-smoked cigarette butt on the streets.

Lucia miscast

From Mr Bernard Denvir

Sir, It seems at least a bit petty. Not to give to Donizetti the credit of composing, at least in part, a work which (radio programmes, April 25) you assign to Mozart.

RT ace... This section contains fragments of text from another page, including 'RT ace' and 'henry gee'.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 28 1851

Frederic Skoy (1798-1872), son of a Russian merchant in London, rose to become a Fellow of the Royal Society and president of the Royal College of Surgeons.

SKEY ON OPERATIVE SURGERY

... Mr. Skoy very properly contends that an appeal to the knife should be the very last resort of the honest and intelligent surgeon. In the case of 'operations of expediency' - operations, that is to say 'which are undertaken for the purpose of curing deformity, by the removal or division of sound parts, or of painful diseases, the evil of which does not exceed the level of inconvenience'...

Neonatal priorities

From Dr C. B. Vulliamy

Sir, I am pleased you have highlighted the difficulties facing neonatal paediatricians ('Withdrawing treatment' can be justified, report, April 21; Doctor of the Year award, April 15; Life or death for a baby, April 22).

The decision to give high-tech care to extremely small babies should not be a scientific one based on trying to achieve survival. It is a matter of weighing up the likelihood of handicaps and their long-term effects on child and family.

Unfortunately, in intensive medicine, there is always the danger that the blinkered over-enthusiastic application of skills may lead to unrealistic optimism in parents and the more junior staff who may have initiated care.

No intensive care is guaranteed with success and no parent or doctor should feel obligated to give it at any cost. We need to be completely honest about what we can achieve for these small infants and use our technology appropriately.

Yours faithfully, C. B. VULLIAMY, 1 Dinglewood Close, Coombe Dingle, Bristol, Avon. April 25.

From Mrs H. Green

Sir, Mr Bromley (April 25) should add to his list of Met. Office metaphors clouds that will 'bubble up' to produce 'more organised' showers.

Yours faithfully, JEREMY MAAS, Hook Farm House, Iffington, Northants, Northants. April 25.

From Mr Jeremy Maas

Sir, A female petrol pump attendant, while filling up my tank, by a quiet country road, glanced up at the scudding clouds and observed: 'Nice sunny periods were having'.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE April 27: Her Excellency Madame Maria Manuela...

Birthdays today

Mr Ian Beer, Headmaster, Harrow School, 57; Mr Michael Brearley, cricketer, 44; Baroness Carnegy of Lour, 63...

City of London Freeman's School

Term began on Thursday, April 21, with Mr Mark Page, B.Mus., taking up his appointment as head of the junior school...

Jesus College Oxford

Would any members of Jesus College, Oxford, who have not received a copy of the 1987 College Record...

Loretto School

Loretto School announces the following awards for 1988/9: Six Form Scholarships...

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Edward IV, reigned 1461-70, 1471-83, Rouen, 1442; James Monroe, 5th president of the USA 1817-25...

Supper

Dr David Owen, MP, delivered the Barnett memorial lecture last night at the Royal Hall and attended a supper given by Mr Alan Lee Williams...

Reception

Joint Services Expedition to Borup Fiord, Ellesmere Island Flight Lieutenant K. W. Hankinson, leader of the Joint Services Expedition to Borup Fiord, Ellesmere Island...

Meetings

Royal College of General Practitioners The spring general meeting of the Royal College of General Practitioners was held on Sunday, April 24, 1968 at Cheltenham Race Course...

Service dinner

43rd and 52nd Light Infantry The annual dinner of the 43rd and 52nd Light Infantry Dinner Club was held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club...

CLARENCE HOUSE

April 27: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and The Prince of Wales, Counsellors of State under Her Majesty's Commission...

YORK HOUSE

April 27: The Duke of Gloucester, patron, ICOMOS UK (International Council on Monuments and Sites, United Kingdom National Committee)...

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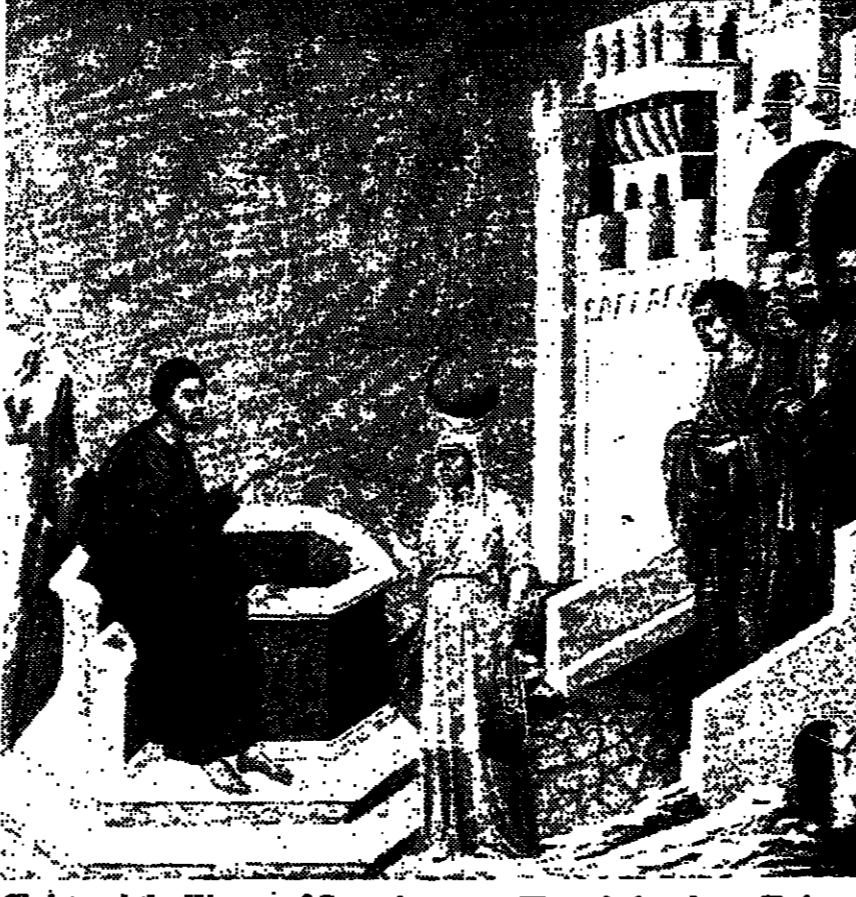
CLARENCE HOUSE

April 27: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and The Prince of Wales, Counsellors of State under Her Majesty's Commission...

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of The Gordon Highlanders, will open Gordon Barracks, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, at 10.15...

THE THYSSEN MASTERPIECES



Christ and the Woman of Samaria, by Duccio di Buoninsegna (died Siena, 1319): This panel, measuring 43 by 46 cms, was originally a small part of Duccio's Maestà - Madonna in Majesty...

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.S.M. Hare and Miss A.E. Amery The engagement is announced between Mercury, only son of Mr and Mrs Alan Hare...

Marriages

Mr D.H. Green and Miss A.H. Collinson The marriage took place on April 23, 1968, at the Temple Church, London...

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr C. J. A. Barrett, QC, Mr P. J. Fox, QC, and Mr A. J. D. Nicholl to be circuit judges on the South Eastern, North Eastern and Midland and Oxford Circuits respectively...

Master Mariners' Company

The Prince of Wales is to be Master of the Master Mariners' Company for the ensuing year, Commander D. B. Cairns has been elected deputy master and Captain C. S. J. H. Daniel senior warden.

Framework Knitters' Company

The following have been installed as officers of the Framework Knitters' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr Michael Martin, Upper Warden, Mr Patrick Coran, Lower Warden, Mr Nicholas Cornh.

Royal Television Society

The following have been awarded fellowships of the society: Mrs Joan Briggs, Charles Denton, Liz Foran, Anne Harford, James Harvey, Gordon Roberts, Gordon Roberts, Gordon Roberts, Gordon Roberts, Gordon Roberts...

OBITUARY

MR REGINALD UREN Pioneer architect from New Zealand

Mr Reginald Uren, who has died in New Zealand at the age of 85, was an architect of New Zealand origin who practised in London for nearly 40 years, and came prominently into the public eye when, in 1933, he won a competition for a new town hall for the borough of Hornsey...

REAR-ADM DESMOND HOARE

Rear Admiral Desmond Hoare, CB, headmaster of Atlantic College for the first seven years of its existence after it was founded in South Wales in 1962, died at his home in the Irish Republic on April 26. He was 77.

MR K. M. PAYNE

Mr Kenneth Martin Payne, MC, TD, President of the Leander Club and senior Stewart of Henley Royal Regatta, died on April 24, aged 75.

DR ROGER LAND

Dr Roger Land, who died suddenly on April 17, at the age of 47, was director of the Agricultural Food Research Council's Animal Physiology and Genetics Research Institute at Roslin, Midlothian...

MR OSCAR JOSEPH

Mr Henry Oscar Joseph, OBE, who died on April 20, at the age of 87, was one of the most respected members of the Anglo-Jewish community, and had a life-long involvement in the cause of world Jewish relief.

VERY REV K. W. HAWORTH

The Very Rev Kenneth William Haworth, who was Principal of Wells Theological College from 1947 to 1960 and then for 11 years Dean of Salisbury, died on April 22 at the age of 85.

London boroughs, in the 1950s and 1960s, as well as a quantity of housing and several factories. One of Uren's particular interests was relating sculpture to architecture, and the relief by Barbara Hepworth on the flank of the John Lewis building is one outcome of his initiative.

Hoare brought to the college a background of Second World War experience of the Russian convoys, of expeditions in South America, and of outward bound training of naval apprentices. Before joining the Atlantic College venture he had been a prominent figure in boys' clubs, working in the 1950's with the London Federation of Boys Clubs and on the committee of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

He coached three Cambridge crews and in 1935 and 1936 went to the assistance of Oxford, who were then nearing the end of a long spell of defeats. Payne was made a Steward of Henley Regatta in 1938 and elected to the Committee of Management the same year. Payne was awarded the MC for commanding 471 Battery of the 98th Field Regiment during the fierce fighting around Monte Cassino in 1944.

Land recognized the value of multiple ovulation and embryo transfer (Moet), as means of increasing rates of genetic improvement in farm animals. He contributed to the development of such schemes, particularly in dairy cattle. As research director, he also encouraged the new opportunities provided by molecular genetics and gene transfer. Lines of sheep have been created at Edinburgh that secrete clinically useful human protein in their milk.

His integrity, fair-mindedness, and openness to argument, set a benchmark for communal leadership. Their impact was all the greater because of his warm and engaging manner, a total absence of pomposity and a wry sense of humour which surfaced even during the most solemn of discussions. He never sought recognition but brought into communal life the same rectitude that characterized his professional life as a banker.

White dean at Salisbury Haworth was involved in 1970 in a public controversy for allowing modern sculptural art to be shown in the cathedral close. Some were offended by them, but the motion was rejected at the diocesan synod. He was a motion criticizing him and the chapter by an overwhelming majority.



Vertical text on the right edge of the page, likely from an adjacent page or a scanning artifact.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

ALD UREN hitect from ealand

London boroughs in the 1950s and 1960s, as well as a quantity of housing and several factories...

SMOND HOARE

ment of the Atlantic College Coast Rescue Services. With the help of students aged 16 to 19, he designed, built and trained the Atlantic coast rescue lifeboat of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

M. PAYNE

was made a Stewart and was Regatta in 1938. He was elected to the Committee of Management the same year. He was awarded the M.C. for his services during the 47th Regatta.

ER LAND

is a new approach to the search for a cure for arthritis. It is a revolutionary new approach to the search for a cure for arthritis.

ER JOSEPH

is a new approach to the search for a cure for arthritis. It is a revolutionary new approach to the search for a cure for arthritis.

VERY REV K.W. HAWORTH

is a new approach to the search for a cure for arthritis. It is a revolutionary new approach to the search for a cure for arthritis.

DEATHS

Just died 90th born. A prophet in his own house. In his own house. In his own house. In his own house.

SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

BARBARA WILSON - On April 27th 1917. Mrs. Barbara Wilson, nee Jones, died on April 27th 1917.

DEATHS

BAKTER - On April 26th, peacefully at his home in Harrogate, beloved husband of the late Mrs. BAKER.

DEATHS

BECK - On April 26th, peacefully at his home in Harrogate, beloved husband of the late Mrs. BECK.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALCOHOL ADDICTION - For more information, contact the Alcoholics Anonymous group in London.

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FOR SALE

MORNING SUITS - Evening Tail Suits - Barons Hire Dept - 22 Charing Cross Rd.

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RENTALS

KEITH CARDALE GROVES - THE INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONALS - 22 Charing Cross Rd.

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OVERSEAS TRAVEL

FLIGHTS HOLIDAYS - TRULON TRAVEL - 44 St. James Street, London W1A 1AB.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

THE BRITISH RAILWAY BOARD - In accordance with Section 64 of the Railways Act 1925...

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HEALTH

Smoking behind closed doors

Growing numbers of employers are bowing to pressure from staff and confining smokers to office 'sin bins'. Does it work, and is it legal? Lee Rodwell reports

They call it the sin bin. It is the only place in the Edinburgh offices of Kwik-Fit Holdings where the 60 staff are allowed to indulge in the guilty pleasure of smoking.

Not that it is always pleasurable. In fact, according to Tom Farmer, the manager, people can sometimes be seen having a cigarette in the car park because, even with the window open, the sin bin gets so smoky that the smokers cannot stand it.

At present, restrictions on smokers in Britain are a lot less rigorous than on their counterparts elsewhere (in New York, for instance, one of the most draconian pieces of anti-smoking legislation in the United States came into force this month with stringent rules about smoking on public transport and in public buildings, cabs and restaurants).

Yet since the Froggatt Report concluded earlier this year that there was a link between passive smoking and lung cancer, there seems little doubt that non-smokers will become increasingly vocal and more and more companies will introduce 'sin bins' or ban smoking from specific areas of work.

Dorothy Mills, aged 23, who works in the computer room at Kwik-Fit, was in favour of the sin bin: she is one of the two non-smokers in a department of eight. "I work in the middle of the room and I used to get smoke from all angles. By late

afternoon there was a real build-up. Sometimes I'd say it was pretty bad and they'd open a window, but I was glad when the policy was introduced. The atmosphere is so much better."

This has proved to be true in more than one sense. Another non-smoker, Lex Yuill, 29, who works in credit control, says: "We are about half and half in our office. But the more we created about their smoking, the more they resolved to keep on. It hardened attitudes. For the first two or three weeks after the ban, things were a bit difficult. They were on edge but the non-smokers backed off, let them say their piece and didn't rub it in. Now I'd say the majority of smokers wouldn't want to go back to smoking at their desks."

Lynda Hindle, 22, who works in the customer services department and has been smoking about 15 cigarettes a day since she was 16, supports this view. "It can be difficult at times. This is a busy office and when the phones are going that's when you want a cigarette. It's not very nice having to go down to the sin bin - it's full of smoke and often freezing because the windows are open. But it's got to be better for everyone. I choose to smoke - they don't. They shouldn't have to inhale my smoke."

The customer services manager, Derek May, was probably the heaviest smoker in the building - he started 20 years ago and at 36 was getting through more than 40 cigarettes a day, with at least 25 of those at work. He voted against the change and says: "I was annoyed when it was announced. It felt as though I was being dictated to but I had to reflect on the situation - I hold a responsible position in the company - and I had to accept it. I never thought about leaving."

"Oddly enough, the first couple of weeks weren't too bad. It's harder now. I've actually cut my intake to about 15 a day and I don't smoke that much at home. But I have noticed I smoke more if I go out for a meal or down to the pub."

Frank Wild, who is in his fifties and works in sales, was involved in carrying out the initial survey about whether or not to ban smoking. The vote was 63 per cent for a ban, 37 per cent against. When the ban was introduced on January 1, he was smoking more than 20 cigarettes a day. Now he is down to about six. "I voted for a non-smoking office. I was



Where there's smoke: the Kwik-Fit sin bin, introduced with a promise of £1,000 for charity if the rules were kept

'It's not very nice having to go down to the sin bin - it's full of smoke. But I choose to smoke - they don't'

working with two non-smokers who made it obvious they didn't like my smoking and I thought it might help me stop," he says. "It's annoying to have to go downstairs - so you get used to going for longer periods without. One thing that has happened is that I light up when I leave work. I never used to smoke in the car - I hate cars that smell of smoke - but now I feel I deserve a cigarette."

But if Kwik-Fit believes in the carrot, it could be argued that Ashford Borough Council believes in the stick. Last November, after a ballot of the 350-strong workforce and having given three months' notice of the change, it amended contracts of employment to implement a total non-smoking ban apart from in one section of the staff room.

So far none of the staff has left as a result of the ban and the deputy chief personnel officer, John Styles, says that

they have not yet had to give anyone a verbal warning, but "unless you are prepared to back a policy it will fairly quickly be challenged. It would be sad if we had to sack someone for smoking at work but, after all, the majority of people wished to have this policy," he says.

"When we advertise we make it plain we have a no-smoking policy and if anything this has had a positive effect on recruitment. There has been so much general interest we ran a seminar last week on how to introduce a no-smoking policy, to which delegates from health and local authorities and the private sector came."

If an employer wants to introduce a no-smoking policy there is little a smoker can do about it, providing certain steps are followed, says Gillian Howard, a London lawyer and industrial relations consultant who has written a paper summarizing the legal issues of smoking at work.

In 1985 a smoker, Mrs Wainwright, returned from sick leave to her job as secretary for a firm of insurance brokers to discover that, along with a move to new offices, a no-smoking rule had been introduced. She was told that if she did not comply with the rule her employment would be terminated. But the Birmingham Industrial Tribunal ruled that the company had acted unreasonably and was in serious breach of the original contract of employment.

However, more recently, a Southampton industrial tribunal ruled that another smoker, Mr Rogers, could not claim constructive dismissal because of the introduction of a no-smoking policy at the microfilm duplicator firm where he worked. Even though there was no negotiation with the workforce, the tribunal concluded that because the employer discussed the smoking ban for more than a year before the policy came into force, and gave four months' notice of changing the work rules, it had acted reasonably.

Gillian Howard advises employers to proceed in a "sensible, lawful way, working through consultation and educational processes, and giving reasonable notice of a change."

Slips that endanger surgeons

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

The recent death from Aids of Dr David Collings, the surgeon who had practised in Zimbabwe, has drawn attention to the possible hazards to medical staff operating on infected patients. News reports of his death disclosed that surgeons working in Africa did not always wear gloves, and that the same gloves were sometimes worn twice. A well known surgeon recently told The Times that he pricked his finger while operating at least once on any day when he was in the theatre.

However, he may be as optimistic as he is gifted. A recent experiment by a surgical team at the Leicester Royal Infirmary demonstrated that the overall perforation rate of gloves used during surgery was 37.5 per cent per operation. Checks had shown that all

the control gloves were perforation-free when examined before use. Not all members of the operating team are likely to suffer to the same extent, however. The surgeon and his theatre nurse had most holes in their gloves - 48 and 42 per cent respectively, the

latter from handling sharp instruments. The first and second assistants to the surgeons fared better. Most of the perforations went unnoticed by the team; the surgeon was aware of only 38 per cent of the times he pricked himself, the nurse noticed 9.8 per cent of incidents which perforated her gloves, the first assistant was aware of 41 per cent, and the second assistant never noticed when he was pricked at all.

Fact and fiction

Dr Somerset Maugham described how actors and actresses tend to assume in real life the fictional characters they play on the stage; but seldom can anybody have done it as completely as Sharon Gless, the actress who plays the fair-haired American police sergeant in Cagney and Lacey. The film character is an alcoholic who is fighting her addiction; now actress Gless has been admitted to a clinic to be dried out after taking to the bottle, reportedly following a row with her lover.

Women have a greater risk than men of developing cirrhosis, and if they stop drinking the damage is less likely to regress; but as the disease is more common in men most of the research has been done on the male liver. Recent studies at the Bupa Medical Centre in London by Dr Carolyn Ritchie, Dr Ian Kelsey Fry and Miss Sharon Alloway, with Dr Gil Thompson from the Hammersmith Hospital, used the CAT scan in a sophisticated way to measure the degree of fatty infiltration of the liver. They showed that the standard liver function blood tests are not an accurate guide to the amount of liver damage, or the likeli-

hood of developing cirrhosis. Their research has demonstrated that a quarter of men who take eight or more units of alcohol a day (one unit equals half a pint, a glass of wine, or a pub tot of spirit), will develop severe fatty degeneration of the liver; between 10 and 30 per cent of these will progress to full cirrhosis of the liver. The greater the fatty infiltration, the greater the chance of cirrhosis. Heavy drinkers who have been told that they have normal liver function tests can no longer be certain that they are not in danger of developing cirrhosis, and will be well advised to seek out this specialized form of liver scan.

Ulcer optimism

Lord Tonypan, formerly the Speaker George Thomas, counters chronic bronchitis, the Welsh disease, by taking a holiday in the sun during the worst of the winter weather. But this year cheating the season did not work its usual magic, as he started to suffer increasingly severe abdominal pain until eventually he needed to seek medical help while abroad. The surgeon diagnosed a duodenal ulcer, which he told his team was the largest he had ever seen in his surgical career. Tonypan was prescribed an H2 antagonist and barely a month later the ulcer had disappeared without trace.

Rural invasion

Foxes travel along railway lines and colonize suburban gardens; kestrels follow the motorways into the towns where they are now happy establishing themselves on the edges of tower blocks. But not all the migration is one way. Tinea is the fungus which gives rise to the twin ills of foot and groin rot, as they were known to the troop sergeants during basic training, or athlete's foot and chloebiosis, as they were referred to in more refined circles. It also migrates; but it is the town variety, Trichophyton rubrum, which has been carried by Londoners along the M5 motorway and is now eroding the hold the rural species of tinea, Trichophyton verrucosum and Trichophyton mentagrophytes, have on the groins, between the toes, and under the toenails of the Somerset locals.



Cause for concern? Dr Alistair Hay displays two widely-sold garden products

Up the garden path?

Before Bank holiday gardening fever sets in, take a cautious look in your shed

The use of chemicals as clandestine weapons has been outlawed in Britain since the 1950s. But on the shelves of hardware stores and garden centres you may still find weedkillers that contain 245T and its contaminant dioxin, responsible for the devastation wrought by Agent Orange in Vietnam. And the combination of 245T and 24D used to scorch the Ho Chi Minh Trail can be found in some bramble and brushwood killers, while certain insecticides use organo-phosphorus compounds similar to those employed in the German nerve gas experiments of the 1930s.

Not so long ago a man died of a muscle-wasting, motor neurone disease which his doctors traced back to the day he sprayed two cans of a well-known brand of ant killer in a poorly ventilated larder. The label warned against breathing the spray, and the man had inhaled an exceedingly large quantity of the pesticide, but according to one of the team of neurologists who treated him at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Dr Adrian Williams, further medical investigation could be needed into the potential long-term effects of exposure to smaller doses of such chemicals. "It's our job as medics - I'm not saying it's up to the insecticide manufacturers - to try to discover whether there's any exposure in common to the patients who come to us with this type of disease," he says.

So how confidently can we handle garden chemicals? Dr Graham Pearson, director of the Ministry of Defence's Chemical Defence Establishment at Porton Down, says: "I would always be very careful to read the ingredients. I'd put down any containing 245T or 24D, which should be clearly listed on the label, and go for the pyrethrin-based insecticides." Pyrethroids, a growth area in pesticides, are a synthetic analogue intended to supercede the organo-phosphorus chemicals. They are "less environmentally persistent", as Mike Flux, environmental adviser to ICI, puts it, and

meddling is not only unnecessary but dangerous.

Dr Edward Spiers of Leeds University, author of a major book on chemical warfare, is one of those who holds the middle ground, a wary compromise. He cheerfully admits that "my own weed killer contains 24D which was used in Agent Orange, but I handle it carefully, always with rubber gloves, and dilute it well."

Dr Alistair Hay of the Department of Chemical Pathology at Leeds University, an internationally acknowledged expert in the field, notes that "the poison paraquat - lethal when inhaled, but not so dangerous in cases of skin contact - is used in Weedol and other brands here although it is banned or restricted in some countries."

But Dr Peter Slade, head of product stewardship for ICI, pooh-poohs concern about paraquat, if it is used properly, and counters: "We are working to restore its registration in Germany, so the only country in which paraquat is fully banned is Sweden." Despite this paraquat has disappeared from many products.

Hay is primarily interested in the health and safety of workers in the chemical and agricultural industry, and seeing that "vital information is passed down which will allow them to make an informed choice and take the necessary precautions."

Slade says that ICI is experimenting with symbols and illustrations that will be clear even to the illiterate. He stresses that under the terms of the new Food and Environment Protection Act, active ingredients must by law be displayed in advertisements.

Packaging is also important. Hay says it should be designed so that if a solution requires mixing or diluting none of it need touch the hands. He is pleased to report that "market leaders such as Monsanto are improving the design of the packaging so that the dispensing is done into a sealed unit rather than a cap."

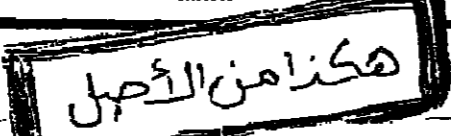
The first word in decoration



Toulouse Monsieur Rigot implores you to sit on the cat New York Lee Mindel needs six shades of white to colour the hall Haarlem Globe trotter pumps half-a-million volts into Holland London André de Cacqueray transfers petit France to South Ken Andalusia Jaime Parlade popularises his library ceiling

The last word in taste

252 pages in the May issue; on sale April 28 A Conde Nast Publication



مكازم الأصيل

BOOKS

Bad news by cross and gun

Peter Ackroyd on a new evangelical imperialism for lesser tribes without the law

THE MISSIONARIES By Norman Lewis Secker & Warburg, £10.95

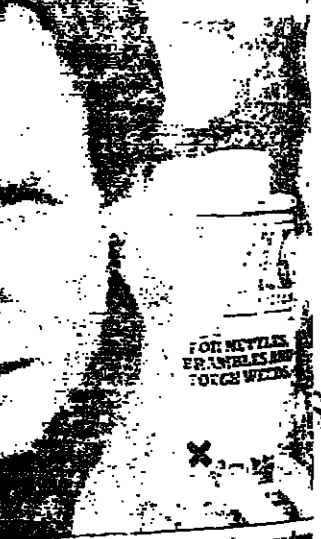
... have not yet had to give...

... returned from sick leave...

... Howard advises employ...

... believe many emp...

... in all senses an old man's...



Two widely-sold garden pro...

... is not only...

... he en 1?...

... dening...

... shed...

... Victoria...

This book is the story of a religious tragedy, since in large part it is an account of the Christian conquest of the Pacific...

They created a desert and called it faith. They gave arms to one chief, for example, on the promise that all those conquered by him would be forcibly converted. Then a penal code was drawn up by the missionaries and enforced by missionary police in the uniform of Bow Street runners...

But this account is only the prelude to Lewis's major attack, which is upon those most recent fundamentalists who come not from England but from America, and who carry with them a different concept of their imperial role as well as a different deity to support. The God of the English missionaries was as hard and as cruel as a Victorian iron-master; the god of the new American missionaries is like a small-town American politician of ultra right-wing persuasion.

In 1970 Norman Lewis and a photographer travelled into the most remote regions of Central America in order to glimpse the Huichol Indians, a tribe that had had very little contact with the outside world and as a result had managed to keep its ancient religion and art intact...

America in order to glimpse the Huichol Indians, a tribe that had had very little contact with the outside world and as a result had managed to keep its ancient religion and art intact...

The methods of achieving this blessed goal have not changed much over the centuries, and the American fundamentalists might have learned them at the feet of their evangelical predecessors some 150 years before...

not exclusively Christian but which has done some of its best work within that particular creed. Indeed certain missionaries even went so far as to rewrite the Bible in order to demonstrate that it was the Indians themselves who had actually crucified Christ.

It is hard not to see in all this a neurotic fear of the darkness which the Indians were supposed to represent, so that in a sense the missionaries were confronting their own lost selves when they encountered the Indian tribes.

Indians who wished to defend their ancestral lands were generally considered to be nothing other than a dangerous nuisance, and sometimes it is easier to quell a nuisance with the fear of hell fire than with anything of a more commercial nature...



GUYTON BOYD HARTÉ

Satire of cult and thrust

FICTION Stuart Evans

COME TO THE EDGE By David Hart Hutchinson, £12.95

TELL IT ME AGAIN By John Fuller Chatto & Windus, £10.95

S. is Sarah Worth, a silly, selfish, mildly paranoid New Englander who has gone one considerable step further than the rest of her yoga-dabbling circle by joining the settlement in Arizona of a publicity-wise guru...

John Updike's very funny satire not only pierces the occluded hocus-pocus of Lego religion which exploits the gullible and self-deluded using cant words and phrases to point the comedy and farce of his situations...

lies in Norman Lewis's sympathetic attitude towards the Indians themselves. Although he does not overtly sentimentalize them, there is a hint of the Noble Savage in his account...

readers may approach a novel by John Fuller with confidence. The descriptions of creative effort and technical endeavour among musicians are ambitious and triumphantly successful...

When she disappears and he determines to track her down, it degenerates into a detective plot without much tension. The character of the singer's Svengalian mentor, the songwriter Sammy West, is menacingly well-drawn...

Playful old Ploopy!

NOVEL OF THE WEEK

Victoria Glendinning

BLUEBEARD By Kurt Vonnegut Cape, £10.95

much in 30 years. His dogged stylistic tomfoolery is not to everyone's taste, but if you've loved him in the past or have never read him before, read Bluebeard. He avoids pretensions as though they were landmines...

of the artist of "moderate giftedness", are the topics that exercise Karabekian in his autobiography. In a medieval community, he says, a moderately gifted artist was a champion...

press and the camera. Now the world can get along with about half a dozen champions in any field, and they're often the wrong ones.

Vonnegut might be distressed if his own playfulness were analysed seriously. He wants his smoke-screen. But it's hard not to see the antics of Bluebeard as expressing a gnawing anxiety about the value of an artist's life-work.

Expatriate manners

Isabel Raphael

SUMMER'S LEASE By John Mortimer Viking, £11.95

John Mortimer, writing with customary elegance, seems to have produced ideal holiday reading. Contemporary life, especially among the expatriate British in Tuscany, is satirized just broadly enough for readers to laugh at their neighbours without feeling uncomfortable themselves.

missing landlord, with whom she shares an unexpected taste for Italian primitives. What a pity that, with so much going for him, John Mortimer has written such a flimsy novel.

Tum Tum sans trousers

Hugo Vickers

THE KING IN LOVE Edward VII's Mistresses By Theo Aronson John Murray, £13.95

This is the story of the three main mistresses of Edward VII - Lillie Langtry, Daisy Warwick and Alice Keppel - and to some extent of his lesser entanglements. Clearly the King should not be a role-model for the young; "He made love to duchesses as he did to prostitutes."

Lillie's quarterly cheque of £25 in various dismal lodging houses. At Holyhead he would sometimes await his wife's train for a glimpse of her, but always lost his nerve at the last minute.

to do him in, but Mr Aronson does not think it was Lillie. This book has reaped a rich harvest from similar research in the secret diary of Wilfrid Scawen Blunt and the Gladstone papers.

Finally Alice Keppel appeared at a time when the Prince was of an age that values a good partner at the bridge table as highly as a good partner in bed.

Martin Cropper reviews Bookmark on page 30

FOYLES ART GALLERY DAPHNE BABOURIS An Exhibition of HAND BATTIKED PURE SILK PIECES 10-6 daily until 4 May 113-119 Charing Cross Road London WC2

NEW HARDBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books: Games with Shadows, by Neal Ascherson (Radus, £18) Collected think-pieces by The Observer's clever, cultivated, passionate columnist...

Continuing the vivid and dramatic story of the Hudson Bay Company begun in Company of Adventurers

CAESARS OF THE WILDERNESS

PETER C. NEWMAN

"I cannot conceal my enthusiasm for the story of the Hudson's Bay Company; here it is very well told" A.L. Rowse Financial Times "Author Peter C. Newman tells a thrilling chilling story" - Daily Express



THE MOST HEARTSTOPPING ADVENTURE YET FROM THE AUTHOR OF DEEP SIX AND CYCLOPS CLIVE CUSSLER SPANNING CENTURIES. CROSSING CONTINENTS. SEARCHING FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY TREASURE GRAFTON BOOKS A Division of the Collins Publishing Group

THE TIMES Educational Supplement THIS WEEK 172 pages It's so large it's in 2 parts Make sure you get both parts of your TES on April 29th On sale at newsagents 60p THE TIMES Educational Supplement

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead.

THEATRE LONDON

BACK WITH A VENGEANCE: Dame Edna Savage back again joshing the possums. Strand Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (01-836 2660).

THE COMMON PURSUIT: Simon Gray plays the fortunes of underdogs friends. Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-836 2294).

DOCTOR FAUSTUS: Stephen Jenn plots to capture Peter Guinness's soul in Marlowe's version of the legend. Salford Vic Theatre, 66 The Quadrant, SE1 (01-928 6363).

FAMILY AFFAIR: Splendid Cheek by Jowl in town again with Ostrovsky's satire on the Russian merchant class of 1842. Donmar Warehouse, 41 Euston Road, WC2 (01-379 6666).

ONE WAY PENDULUM: Jonathan Miller's production of N F Simpson's absurdist comedy, strong cast of human actors and tenuous chorus of weighing-machines rehearsing 'Hallelujah' chorus. Old Theatre, Waterloo Road SE1 (01-928 7816).

SINNERS AND SAINTS: New James (Baf Nor) Mundy comedy follows an innocent abroad in money-loving London. Warehouse Theatre, 82 Dingwall Road, Croydon (01-860 4060).

THE WINTER'S TALE: Tim Pigott-Smith and Eileen Atkins in Peter Fiel's production. National Theatre (Cottesloe), South Bank SE1 (01-928 2252).

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 22. POLAR (a) Low French slang for a whodunnit detective story, especially in paperback.

SEMESE (c) Half-eaten, from the Latin semi + esse the past participle of edere to eat.

GOADSMAN (a) The man who uses a pointed stick to goad or prod his plough-bullocks to try harder and get a move on.

FLARP (b) Musicians' jargon for quavering, tentative, and off-pitch; a portmanteau word combining flat and sharp.



Ageless: Thora Kerr and John Cashman in the new Iolanthe

Opera with sights on the Savoy

A bequest of £1 million by the late Dame Bridget D'Oyly Carte and sponsorship by British Midland Airways has brought back to life the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, keepers of the shrine of Gilbert and Sullivan.

CONCERTS

LUNCHTIME

HALF OF ART: Marie-Claire Alain plays the first half of Bach's Art of Fugue on the Festival Hall's mighty organ. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191).

DANCE

COPPELIA: Northern Ballet's production has traditional choreography but transfers the action to Lancashire. Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1A 1TB (01-278 9918).

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TALKS

LUNCHTIME LECTURE: George Spencer, Director of Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museums, talks on The Tennis Party by C M Gere.

OTHER EVENTS

SALE OF ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL PAINTINGS: 18th, 19th and 20th century watercolours, oils, portraits, sketches include works by Francis Towne, Peter de Wint, Harold Knight and Henry Thomas Agnew.

GALLERIES

NEW SICHUAN PRINTS: Contemporary Chinese prints. Contemporary Art, 101 Piccadilly, London W1 (01-852 6240).

ROCK

RUSH: Heavy Canadian technicians with lots of fast waddy bits. Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex (01-934 1234) 7.30pm, £9-£10, for three nights.

WALKS

LEGAL LONDON: meet Temple tube, 10.30am, £2 (also next Thurs).

BEST SELLING BOOKS

For the week ending April 23. After The War, Frederic Raphael. Collins £10.95. The Bonfire of the Vanities, Tom Wolfe. Cape £12.95.

THE ISLAND SEEN

Paintings by children from schools on the Isle of Dogs, produced for the European Year of the Environment at the Royal Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 (01-377 0170).

CINEMAS

WALTER PATTERSON IS Abducted. London W1 (01-629 4119).

CINEMAS

JOURNEY'S END. The final performance of the play by the 190th Central Postal Directory, London SW1 (01-836 8800).

ART GALLERIES

FRANCIS BARTON: 30 King St, London SW1 (01-836 8800).

SALE OF ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL PAINTINGS: 18th, 19th and 20th century watercolours, oils, portraits, sketches include works by Francis Towne, Peter de Wint, Harold Knight and Henry Thomas Agnew.

CHELTENHAM SPRING ANTIQUES FAIR: Three day fair with a wide range of antiques, wide range of prices.

POETRY EVENT: Duncan Bush reads from his book The Poetry of Silence.

TEA TASTINGS: Opportunity to taste a collection of exotic and unusual teas from a wide range of specialists.

MADE IN LONDON SERIES: Tonight's film the 1930 Hitchcock classic thriller.

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ENTERTAINMENTS

JASON CONNERY "Distinguished" D. Mabel "Magnificent" D. Mabel "Compelling" D. Express "Deeply Moving" Independent NICKY HENSON "Perfect" Standard "Extensive" ISC "Mastery" FT "Superb" Today

JOURNIES' END

WINNER OF A "BEST PLAY" award. Winner of a "BEST PLAY" award. Winner of a "BEST PLAY" award.

CONCERTS FESTIVAL CELEBRATION 0243 781212 MAY 11-13 1990... CONCERT THEATRE 01-930 2678... WAREHOUSE THEATRE 01-379 6666...

JOURNIES' END WINNER OF A "BEST PLAY" award... THE FOREIGNER Directed by PETER WOOD...

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA... THE BURNING BURNING... THE BURNING BURNING...

THE COMMON PURSUIT... THE COMMON PURSUIT... THE COMMON PURSUIT...

THE BURNING BURNING... THE BURNING BURNING... THE BURNING BURNING...

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مكراهن الاحيل

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Jane Rackham

TALKS
LUNCHTIME LECTURE: George Breeze, director of Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, will discuss the exhibition 'The National Gallery, Lower Floor'...

BBC1
6.00 Central AM
6.55 Edgar Kennedy in Love on a Lidder (by)...

BBC2
6.55 Open University: Brian - the Life of an Ordinary Man. Ends at 7.30
9.00 Central

ITV/LONDON
6.00 TV-am begins with The Sports Show introduced by Geoff Clark...

VARIATIONS
BBC1
6.00 News Today 6.30-7.00 News followed by Neighbours 12.00pm

CHANNEL 4
9.30 Schools: A Christening and a Hindu nuptials...

BOOKINGS
FIRST CHANCE
END GAMES: Concerts in June at South Essex...

6.50 Young Musician of the Year. Humphrey Burton introduces the five string finalists...

8.00 World in Action: Mick Jagger - Off the Hook. A documentary about a meeting in the summer of 1967...

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A woman out of her time? Sylvia Richardson with four of her African farm workers (My African Farm: BBC2, 9.30pm)

Life of an English African queen

The winds of change that have blown through Africa somehow bypassed 78-year-old Sylvia Richardson, whose life has gone on much the same over the 40 years that she has lived on a 210-acre farm in the foothills of Mount Kenya...

TELEVISION CHOICE

Hill about Colonel Hilary Hook. "I have been a thwarted woman," declares Sylvia Richardson, a reference to the fact that she had no children...

Men on the spot

Coincidence or not, the fact remains that two successive radio programmes tonight are showcases for BBC journalism. The bonus for the listener is that the goods on display are of top quality...

RADIO CHOICE

Mark Tully: the BBC's man in India (R4, 7.30pm)
ing impact on their families as the 16-year-old girl pianist competing in an international festival in Ken Blakeson's A Perfect Interval (Radio 4, 3.00pm)...

A quarterly income from TSB
11.32%*
PER ANNUM (PAID GROSS)
The TSB Gift Fund currently gives you an estimated return of 11.32%* - and is an attractive alternative to building society investments. Look at the extra advantages we offer.

THURSDAY APRIL 28 1988

حکامان الاجل

PART 2

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1448.9 (+17.6)
FT-SE 100
1806.7 (+5.9)
Bergains
28684 (+26839)
USM (Datastream)
150.23 (+0.51)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8760 (+0.0015)
W German mark
3.1432 (-0.0020)
Trade-weighted
78.2 (same)

10,000
link to
Stockwatch

Stockwatch, the computerized telephone share price service launched jointly by The Times and Citycall, has become the first such service to offer a comprehensive coverage of the unit trust and bonds market.

From this week, the service offers bid and offer prices for over 7,000 unit trusts, offshore funds, insurance and pension bonds - the first time such a service has been made available.

Information on the service, including an application form and details of a free membership offer, is available on page 24.

The competition associated with the introduction of the service is now into its second week. Each week, £1,000 of premium bonds will be given by Expressible Life to a reader who has identified a "mystery voice" from the business world.

Stockwatch attracted more than 10,000 members in its first week and is already proving a boon to investors who have, for instance, been able to follow the minute-by-minute movements of fast-moving shares such as Cadbury Schweppes and Rowntree.

Stockwatch, page 24

Fosco jumps

Fosco Mines, the specialty chemicals group, reported pre-tax profits up from £25.4 million to £35.2 million in the year to the end of December. Earnings per share advanced to 21.5p (14.2p). A final dividend of 7.1p was declared, making 10.6p for the year (9.2p).

Tempus, page 24

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

Table with columns for Stock Market, Currencies, and Interest Rates. Includes entries for New York, Tokyo, Hong Kong, and various bond yields.

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Table listing price changes for various stocks and commodities such as Cadbury Schwep, Allied Lyons, and Corns Gold.

INTEREST RATES

Table showing interest rates for London, US Prime Rate, and various government bonds.

CURRENCIES

Table listing exchange rates for various currencies including the Dollar, DM, and Yen.

GOLD

Table showing gold prices for London, New York, and other markets.

NORTH SEA OIL

Table listing oil prices for Brent, WTI, and other grades.

Suchard lifts its Rowntree stake to 16%

The tug of war for Rowntree, the beleaguered confectionery group, intensified yesterday when Jacobs Suchard, the Swiss group, declared it had bought 2.5 million more shares to lift its stake to 16 per cent - in the face of the £2.1 billion takeover bid by its rival Nestlé.

The stock market viewed the buying spree by Suchard as a means of frustrating the Nestlé offer - and strengthening its own hand in case it decides to launch a full-scale bid itself.

Suchard, which picked up 14.9 per cent in a dawn raid two weeks ago, announced it had added to its holding on Tuesday, at a probable cost of about £20 million.

Suchard was thought to have been buying at prices close to 90p, against the 60p limit it set when it acquired its initial holding.

Cadbury shares soar as £3bn General Cinema bid looms

Cadbury Schweppes shares soared yesterday amid speculation that a £3 billion takeover bid loomed closer from General Cinema, the American group which owns 17.7 per cent of the confectionery group.

Only hours after the Swiss company Nestlé, the world's biggest food group, had mounted a hostile £2.1 billion takeover bid for Rowntree, General Cinema told the US authorities it was no longer a passive investor, and effectively reserved the right to launch a bid, buy more shares, or sell to a third party.

Shares in Cadbury shot up 56p to 387p, valuing the group, which manufactures nearly a third of the chocolate eaten in Britain and a fifth of the soft drinks, at more than £2.25 billion.

Non-Opec producers offer cuts

(Reuters) - A 5 per cent cut in oil exports was offered by non-Opec producers yesterday, but only if members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agree to a similar cut.

Mr James Andu, Opec's spokesman, speaking after seven non-Opec producers met six leading Opec members, said the seven recognized a response would come only after today's consultative conference of all Opec members.

The non-Opec producers proposed to cut their exports by 5 per cent during the crucial remainder of the second quarter - May and June.

Mr Rilwanu Lukman, the Opec president, hailed talks between Opec and seven outside producers as "a watershed".

Barclays's £921m rights issue backed

By Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent
Barclays Bank yesterday comfortably secured a vote in favour of its mammoth £921 million deep discount rights issue at a packed extraordinary meeting in spite of opposition from institutional and small shareholders.

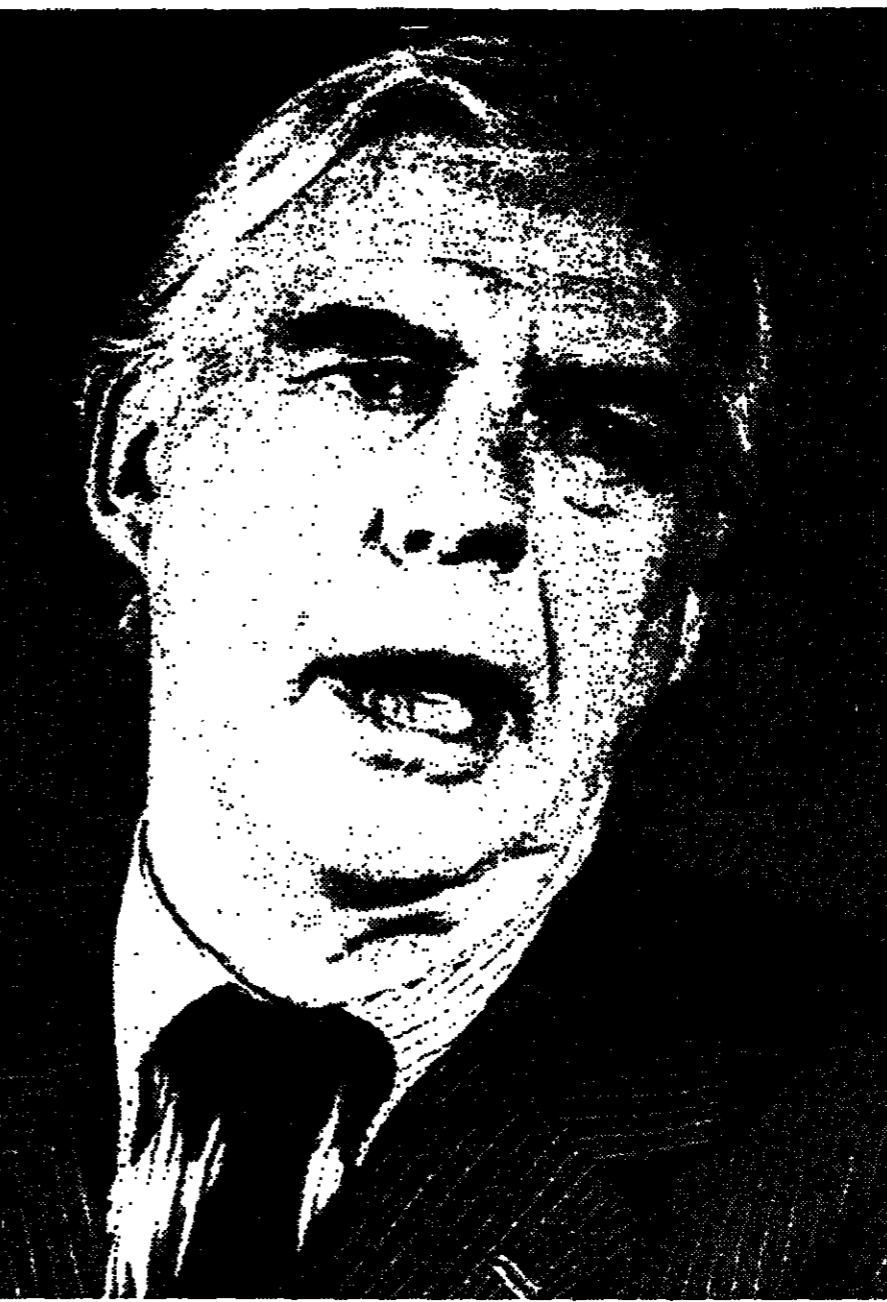
Gilt auctions find favour with Bank

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent
The Bank of England is to make gilt auctions a permanent part of the funding process, following last year's experiment.

Guinness report in Commons

By Our City Staff
A report in The Times about the involvement of Guinness in the takeover battle between Scottish & Newcastle Breweries and Matthew Brown were raised in the House of Commons yesterday.

Rebellion of the small investors



Listening: Sir Campbell Adamson, the chairman, yesterday (Photographs: Bill Warhurst)

Opposition grows to Abbey flotation

By Maria Scott
The Abbey National Building Society is facing substantial opposition from some investors to its plans to become a public limited company.

This became apparent at yesterday's annual meeting, attended by about 800 of the society's members, including Mr Alexander Sandison, who hoped to lead a mutiny against the flotation.

It was the question of money, in particular the safety of investments after conversion, returns on savings accounts, and what the directors might gain through a sale to the public, which concerned the investors.

Sir Campbell Adamson, the chairman, sought to allay their fears, stating that savings would not be converted to shares, that the whole point of conversion was that the society should remain competitive and that directors were

Lloyd's rejects Neill guideline

By Alison Eadie

A working party of Lloyd's insurance market has turned down one of the key recommendations of the government-backed Neill committee. It is the first substantive Neill recommendation to be rejected.

The committee headed by Sir Patrick Neill QC called for managing agents to share in the losses as well as the profits of their syndicates. But an internal Lloyd's working party has turned down the proposal.

The Neill report advocated that a fair and efficient form of deficit clause should be made mandatory. This would mean names could offset the profit commission payable to agents on syndicates in profit against their losses on other syndicates. A small number of Lloyd's agents already operate deficit clauses, but the majority are strongly opposed to mandatory deficit clauses.

The working party, chaired by Mr Edward Walker-Armot, a nominated member of Lloyd's and partner at Herbert Smith, the firm of solicitors, has come down against a mandatory deficit clause for managing agents, who run syndicates, but recommended it for members' agents, who place names on syndicates but do not run them.

The working party has left the option of introducing a deficit clause up to the managing agent, because it believes mandatory clauses could just increase changes to names and could encourage managing agents to try and fudge their results. It also believes its revised agency structure, showing the separation of function between members' and managing agents, makes the need for a deficit clause less pressing.

The idea of a deficit clause has a long history and was advocated in the Cromer report of 1969 and the Fisher report of 1980. The Neill report admitted that the introduction of a deficit clause would add a measure of complexity to the calculation of profit commission, but added that "the principle that the remuneration of managing agents, and perhaps also members' agents, should reflect the total result for which they were responsible rather than the profitable segments of it seems unexceptionable".

A rejection of the idea of deficit clauses will be viewed with dismay by many names, who regarded the deficit clause as one of Neill's most important recommendations. The rejection could also create difficulties for Lloyd's with the Government, which gave Lloyd's two years from January last year to implement the 70 recommendations in the Neill report.



Alexander Sandison: Protest at plans

DIAMOND SERVICE
WHO HAS THE MOST WEEKDAY FLIGHTS TO AMSTERDAM?
It isn't British Airways. It isn't KLM. It's British Midland.
We have 16 flights between Heathrow and Amsterdam every working day, including the first one in and the last one out. Which means our schedule will fit your schedule.
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THE MOST WEEKDAY FLIGHTS BETWEEN HEATHROW AND AMSTERDAM.
BRITISH MIDLAND

mons sketch
villains are the dock
Happy from...
They all smiled...
In his own defence...
Court reporters noted...
Mr Moore chose to go...
The competition associated...
Stockwatch attracted more...
Fosco jumps...
But I have no doubt...
However, he emphasized...
MANCHESTER
YESTERDAY
HIGHEST & LOWEST
TODAY

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

TEMPUS

WPP spends £22.1m in second purchase

WPP Group, the acquisitive advertising and marketing company, has announced its second purchase within a week, having exchanged contracts to buy EWA, a British database management company, for a maximum of £22.1 million.

EWA, based at Maldon, Essex, employs 60 people and provides a computer-based information system for use in marketing goods and services. The deal involves an initial down-payment of £4.8 million, of which £2.98 million is in cash and the balance in new WPP shares. Six further payments are due in the years to 1993 based on profits, with an additional bonus payment of up to £3.6 million if EWA manages a compound annual growth rate of 25 per cent in after-tax profits. Last Friday WPP announced the acquisition of Einson Freeman, a US sales promotion company, for a maximum of £10.66 million.

Nestor-BNA buys Nursaid Roskel for the USM

Nestor-BNA, the nursing agency, is buying Nursaid, an agency based at Stearbridge, West Midlands, for £357,000 cash. The acquisition is expected to contribute about £85,000 to full-year trading profits. This month Nestor-BNA, which owns the British Nursing Association, the country's largest supplier of agency nursing staff, bought a Somerset agency in its first acquisition since flotation.

Roskel, the Birmingham maker and distributor of suspended ceilings and partitions, is coming to the USM. CL-Alexanders Laing and Cruickshank is placing nearly 3.3 million shares, 25 per cent of the enlarged capital, at 121p each, valuing Roskel at £16 million. The company is raising £1.95 million from the issue of 1.77 million new shares, while 1.52 million are being sold by existing shareholders.

US double for Bunzl

Bunzl, the paper, packaging and transport group, has added to its US building materials supply business with the purchase of DJ Wholesale Building Materials Distributors and the much smaller Gittings Lumber Company. Initial payment for the two is \$17.2 million (\$9.1 million), with a further payment dependent on DJ's profits this year and next, expected to be about \$5 million.

DJ, based in Vermont, is a leading independent wholesale distributor of specialty building materials. Sales and profits have grown at an annual compound rate of more than 30 per cent over the past four years. Gittings is a distributor of timber products and is based in Colorado. Bunzl says its integration with its existing Denver operation will produce substantial savings in operational costs.

S&U rises to £1.74m Price increase for diamonds

S&U Stores, the retail consumer credit financier, raised its profits by £500,000 to £1.74 million in the year to end-January. Turnover was static at £37.77 million, up just £18,000. A final dividend of 2.75p raises the total to 4p, from 2.5p, ahead of the half-year forecast. Mr Derek Combe, the chairman, credited the improvement at S&U to lower interest costs and tighter management controls.

Diamond prices are to rise by 13.5 per cent, the De Beers group said yesterday. Booming sales worldwide led to the increase, which will apply to uncut diamonds sold through the company's headquarters at Hatton Garden, London. De Beers controls more than 80 per cent of the world market. The increase takes effect from May 3. Diamond sales have recovered from the slump of the early 80s and are at near-record levels.

Cecil Gee out of red

Cecil Gee, the USM-quoted retailer and designer of men's clothing, made pretax profits in the year to end-January of £357,000, compared with a loss of £1.7 million the previous year. Turnover was unchanged at £16.6 million. Margins recovered and operating expenses and interest payable both fell. The total dividend was raised to 1.25p from 1p.

New Cecil Gee branches opened last year in Birmingham and Eastcheap, City, and further expansion opportunities are under consideration. Operations in America did not perform so well, but management changes and stringent cost controls have been implemented.

Foseco still has a great deal to prove

It is a hard grind at Foseco Minsep and the end is not yet in sight. At the pretax level, the group is back to where it was in 1985, but earnings have not yet made up the ground lost in the dark days of 1986.

It is one thing for the group to recognize its past shortcomings internally and make the necessary management and operational changes, but the market, rightly or wrongly, has a much longer memory.

It remembers the accident-prone characteristics of a business that earns a quarter of its profits in steel-related markets. And, because the international strengths of Foseco have not been properly developed, the potential of exploiting these markets has not been appreciated.

The group has made a strategic decision to cut loss-makers Craclius and Gibson-Homans, both sold in the last six months. Further modest disposals may also be made, but the bulk of the strategic restructuring is complete.

Last year's figures included £1.7 million of redundancy charges, up from £1.2 million in 1986. This cost will be much reduced in 1988 when Foseco will also benefit from loss elimination.

Strong cash flow has reduced gearing from 37 per cent to 12 per cent before taking into account the \$17 million (£9 million) received from the disposal of Gibson-Homans.

Acquisitions are being made to strengthen the core businesses of metallurgical chemicals, construction and mining chemicals, and abrasives and diamond products. Longer term, more sizeable acquisitions are possible.

The group remains committed to achieving a 10 per cent operating margin. Last year it rose from 6 per cent to 7 per cent.

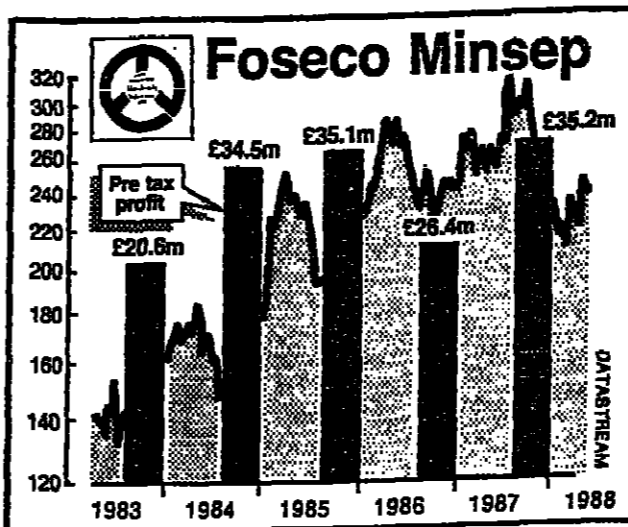
The tax charge is higher than it should be, although down from 49 per cent to 45 per cent. The group has an Advance Corporation Tax problem in Britain and unrelieved tax losses in the United States.

Even talking into account the undoubted currency negative the group will suffer this year, Foseco should report pretax profits of £40 million.

The shares stand at a discount to the market of just over 10 per cent. But it may take a couple of more sets of consistent results, showing growth rather than recovery, to justify a re-rating. Until then, the yield of more than 6.5 per cent will have to underpin the share price.

Westbury

Housebuilding is a cash-hungry business and investors in companies such as Westbury, which is in that line of business alone, must expect to be asked to dig into their pockets from time to time.



This is Westbury's first rights issue since coming to the market in May 1986. The results accompanying it should have satisfied the market and the record is good.

With sales ahead of last year and margins rising, the current year also looks set to produce record results.

The shares, however, drifted back on the news of the fund-raising exercise. The market was, no doubt, reminded that housing land is very expensive and other housebuilders may be bidding their time before tapping the market.

But Westbury's business is better than many. It is barely exposed to the South-east of the country where there are fears, admittedly mostly unproven, that the market is

overheating. Expansion into growth areas such as East Anglia, the South-west and the South Midlands is paying off.

The group sold 2,415 homes last year at an average price of £47,500, below the national average. Volumes should increase slightly this year, but more effort is being put into securing higher margins than chasing volume.

Operating margins rose last year from 11.8 per cent to 13.7 per cent. But in the second half of the year they were above 15 per cent, and are still widening. By the end of 1988, Westbury aims to have increased margins by a couple of per cent over last year.

Westbury avoids public tenders and auctions for land, preferring to develop a land

bank by private negotiation. It owns 6,700 plots and has a further 6,000 plots under option. Taking both types of land together this totals more than five years' supply.

The group should make at least £23 million this year. The rating is modest, but despite the undoubted quality of the management and earnings, the shares are unlikely to be conspicuous outperformers.

For the market is already worrying about the long-awaited cyclical downturn. Yet with mortgage availability at record levels and the strength of the Southern markets spreading to the rest of the country, it is missing an opportunity.

Victaulic

Plastic pipes and pipeline products may lack glamour, but few industries could operate without them.

The products of British market leader Victaulic, which is coming to the market by way of a placing, crop up all over the place - including inside the new and much maligned Lloyd's building in the City.

Since the buyout from British Steel in 1983, Victaulic has expanded both organically and by acquisition. Five new businesses have been added to the original three, allowing Victaulic to diversify its market base.

British Gas is the largest

single customer, taking 30 per cent of output. The water authorities take 30 per cent, and British Coal 5 per cent. Such dependence on a few big consumers can cause profits disruptions if several adverse factors coincide, as they did in 1985.

New industrial uses, Channel Tunnel opportunities and the urgent need to replace Britain's ageing pipe networks provide Victaulic with plenty of opportunities for growth.

The placing price of 235p puts the shares on a historic p/e of just under 11. There are no directly comparable companies against which to measure Victaulic, but the reluctance of existing shareholders to sell is clearly a mark of their confidence in the company's long term value.

British Steel will reduce its holding to 21.7 per cent from 29.5 per cent, and the three institutions which participated in the buyout will come down to 21.6 per cent from 29.6 per cent. The directors' and employee shareholding will reduce to 33.2 per cent from 41 per cent.

The £5.8 million being raised by the flotation will be used to redeem £3.4 million of preference share capital, leaving £2.4 million for investment and acquisitions.

The long and solid record of the company should ensure a decent reception on the stock market.

Alphameric rights issue to raise £9m

By Martin Waller

Alphameric, the computer keyboard and terminal manufacturer, is raising about £9 million with a rights issue on a one-for-four basis at 247p a share.

The money will first go to reduce the group's borrowings, said Mr Roger Hatfield, the finance director, but it would eventually be used to fund expansion.

"We've got a number of smaller projects and opportunities in our sights at the moment which we intend to spend the money on over the next year, but none are spectacular or certain enough to mention at this stage," he said.

"They will add on to virtually all parts of the business. But I would be surprised if we spend all the money by the end of this year."

The rights issue is underwritten by Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker. Investors in Industry, with 10.6 per cent of

Alphameric, has undertaken to take up its rights in full. Alphameric is estimating pretax profits in the year to end-March of £4.6 million, up from a restated £3.9 million, despite a poor first half when earnings were halved.

It is promising a final dividend of 2.5p, making a total 40 per cent ahead at 3.5p.

The full-year figures include an interest charge of £230,000, reflecting the group's borrowings at the year-end of £3.9 million.

All recent acquisitions made a contribution to profits in the second half, said Mr Hatfield.

Real Time Developments, acquired in April 1987, chipped in about £100,000, while PC Communications, bought in December 1987 and merger-accounted, made £700,000 in the full year, up from £300,000 last time.

Judges put moral pressure on ITC

By Colin Narborough

The International Tin Council, the government-backed commodity cartel that failed in October 1985 leaving a trail of bad debts, yesterday came under strong moral pressure in the Court of Appeal to repay the hundreds of millions it owes.

The plea to the insolvent ITC accompanied a ruling by the appeal judges that they were powerless under English law to order the organization to settle its debts with creditor banks and metal brokers.

Lord Justice Kerr said the way the London-based ITC had resisted all legal attempts by its creditors to regain their losses, initially estimated at £900 million, was "unbecoming" of an international organization. Britain and the 22 other signatory states behind the ITC pact were morally obliged to provide the ITC with the means of paying its debts, he said.

In its 300-page judgement, which followed seven weeks of hearings, the court rejected appeals from 11 creditor brokers and six banks that the Government and the other ITC members were jointly and severally liable.

Lord Justice Kerr said Mr Justice Millett was wholly justified in the High Court when he said the ITC behaved "more like a disreputable private debtor, concerned only to hinder and delay his creditors, than the responsible international organization that it claims to be."

He said the ITC's duty was to undo the damage to its creditors by ensuring its assets were used to pay its debts "without any further prevarication. And its members are in our view at least morally obliged to put the ITC in funds to ensure that its creditors are ultimately paid in full."

The court upheld High Court decisions that the ITC had a separate legal personality, separate from its members, and was alone responsible for its debts. The creditors are expected to ask to appeal to the House of Lords.

Otari in £25m UK order

By Our City Staff

Ferplan, a private company in Farnham, Surrey, has won a £25 million contract to provide video cassette vending machines to the Otari Electric Company of Tokyo, Japan.

Mr Mamoru Gonda, the engineering director at Otari, came to Britain for a ceremonial handing-over of contracts with Mr John Moore, chief executive of Ferplan.

The five-year agreement requires the delivery of 3,500 "Videopoint 5000" machines to Japan. They are made by Ferplan's 70 per cent owned subsidiary, the Essex Engineering Company of Essex, Connecticut, US.

The machines, which take standard credit cards or a special "Videopoint" charge card, allow the user to rent or buy the latest video releases. There are about 100 in Britain, operating from retail outlets such as Asda and Gateway stores.

Ferplan was set up 16 months ago.

Cooper buys £15m Lorlin

By Alison Eadie

Frederick Cooper, the fast growing industrial holding company, has made an agreed £15.1 million offer for Lorlin Electronics, the USM quoted electrical components manufacturer.

The acquisition is the largest Cooper has made and its first of a quoted company. The business fit is neat. Cooper's existing electrical components division makes connectors and Lorlin makes switches. Mr Eddie Kirk, the chairman and chief executive of Cooper, said: "We should be able to sell each other's ranges to each other's customers."

The deal is being funded by convertible preference shares on the basis of 22 Cooper preference shares for every 10 ordinary in Lorlin. The preference shares have been valued at 108p each, valuing each Lorlin share at 238p. There is also a cash alternative of 220p per share.

Mr Kirk said institutions were happier to take fixed interest equity at a time of falling interest rates. The coupon on the preference shares is 6.5 per cent.

Cooper's recent expansion has been centred on its elec-

trical components and architectural ironmongery and security products. Cooper also has metal finishing, materials handling and specialist engineering businesses. In the half-year to the end of January it made pretax profits of £2.35 million against £1.72 million in the previous half year.

Lorlin made pretax profits in the year to the end of December of £1.1 million, unchanged from the previous year. Cooper already has acceptances for 55 per cent of Lorlin's equity.

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Year ending 31st December	1987	1986	% Increase
Turnover	£621.0m	£567.3m	9.5
Profit before taxation	£47.4m	£33.9m	39.8
Profit after taxation	£42.8m	£30.3m	41.3

Note: Results are based on consolidated accounts with an unqualified audit report not yet filed with the Registrar of Companies.

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Demand in both the Original Equipment and Replacement markets was strong throughout our whole product range and Export sales also showed impressive growth.

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continued emphasis has been placed on quality assurance standards. A programme of Total Quality Improvement was also further enhanced at all locations during the year.

In addition, Associated Tyre Specialists Limited produced significant growth and profitability in 1987. Michelin now employs more than 11,500 people in its manufacturing and commercial operations in the United Kingdom.

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UniChem to switch adverts but share scheme survives

By Lawrence Lever

The controversial share promotion scheme put forward by UniChem, the pharmaceutical wholesaler, has so far survived intact following complaints to the Department of Trade and Industry.

UniChem shares at a discount when it converts from friendly society into a public company — probably in 1990. UniChem's scheme gives its customers increasingly favourable terms depending on the amount of business.

The Office of Fair Trading is examining the competition aspect of the AAH complaint which represents a serious challenge to the discount scheme.

The resolution, put forward by Mr John Newbold, a UniChem member, needs the support of 400 members. It is supported by 578 people signing requisition forms, although Mr Dodd said preliminary indications were that a lot of forms were invalid because the signatories were not UniChem members.

S Korea setback for BP venture

By David Young Energy Correspondent

BP's plans to expand into the Far East have been dealt a severe blow on the eve of the company's annual meeting with a veto on its investment in a new refinery in South Korea because of a family dispute between businessmen there.

The refinery was to have been built by BP and Kukdong Oil near the city of Kulkdong at a cost of \$520 million with BP taking a 40 per cent stake.

General Cinema bills Cadbury feature

General Cinema's late-night trailer could not have been more explicit, even if Cadbury Schweppes found it "too ambiguous to be capable of clear interpretation."

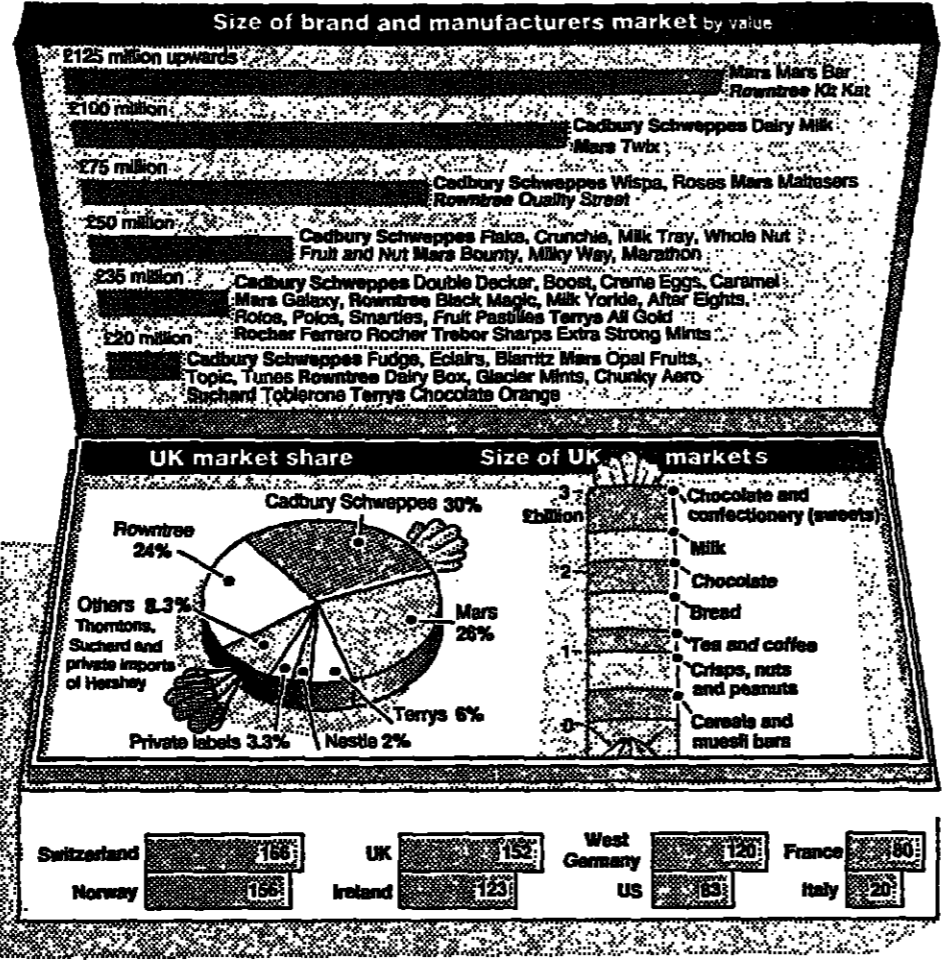
The message to the market is that Cadbury Schweppes is still too cheap. If the same price/earnings multiple was applied to its shares as Nestlé is prepared to offer for Rowntree, then the Cadbury price would be around 420p, compared with last night's close of 362p.

The battles are not only, however, about confectionery, and indeed General Cinema is not looking for sweets.

Nestlé sets sights on Britain

By Rosemary Unsworth Retail Affairs Correspondent

Nestlé, the world's largest food group, is likely to expand further into the British market regardless of the outcome of its £2.1 billion takeover bid for Rowntree.



The Swiss have been forced to move into European markets before the opening up of EEC trade barriers by the end of 1992. Only last month Nestlé paid £700 million for Signor Carlo de Benedetti's Buitoni food group.

Prove

single customer, taking a cent of output. The... Such dependence on a single customer can be a factor in the industry's success or failure.

5m Lorlin

Lorlin made a profit of £5 million in the year to the end of December, up from £1.1 million in the previous year.

Payment to Ward unlawful, says QC

The non-disclosure of the £5.2 million payment to Mr Thomas Ward, the former Guinness director, was clearly a breach of both company law and the Guinness group's articles, the company's counsel told the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Soviet boost for Western firms

Western companies will soon be able to acquire majority interests in joint ventures in the Soviet Union, and will no longer be limited to the maximum stake of 49 per cent Moscow allows at present.

Islanders channel resources

Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker, is effectively closing down its Channel Islands office in Jersey. The business, which spans stock broking and asset management, is being absorbed by the Jersey branch of Bank Cantrade.

Resigned to garden

Simon Clegg, managing director of Prudential-Bache Capital Funding, the UK equities side of the American securities house, has, I hear, resigned.

Test for Lloyd

Ian Botham is not the only cricketer with a social conscience. Clive Lloyd, the former West Indies and Lancashire cricketer, will, I hear, be stepping out on a new and unfamiliar city pitch tonight.

Bamboozling

As a variant on the coals to Newcastle theme, tourists are being given free chopsticks to go to China.

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Advertisement for 'THE TIMES CITY DIARY' with 'No mole in the tunnel' headline.

Advertisement for 'Test for Lloyd' featuring a cartoon of a man holding a sign that says 'BARCLAYS RIGHTS ISSUE'.

Advertisement for 'Bamboozling' featuring a cartoon of a man holding a sign that says 'BARCLAYS RIGHTS ISSUE'.

All

Static year for Nurdin & Peacock

By Martin Waller

Nurdin & Peacock, the south London cash and carry retailer, saw virtually static pre-tax profits in 1987, up from £17.65 million the previous year to just £17.81 million, hit by a dismal performance in the first half.

Earnings were boosted by a windfall surplus on disposal of properties of £1.24 million. A final payment of 2.7p is being made, making a total of 4.3p, up from 3.88p.

"It is an indication that we feel things are better this year," Mr Michael Peacock, the chairman, said.

Sales rose to £904 million, from £839 million in 1986. The poor weather last year hit sales of beers, soft drinks and ice creams. Other problems were the lack of any increase in duty in the 1987 Budget and an admitted high level of pilferage, which has since been tackled.

There had also been extensive capital investment, running at £16.7 million. This had included building a new 120,000 sq ft central distribution warehouse and adding 280,000 sq ft of selling space. Investment is budgeted at about £14 million this year.

MDG to pay £4.5m for marina

By Our City Staff

The Marina Development Group is adding to its operations with the £4.48 million purchase of a marina on the River Hamble, Hampshire. At the same time, it is selling one of its smaller and less profitable developments to a former managing director.

It is buying the Hamble Point Marina for cash, of which £475,000 is deferred until April 1989. The marina made pre-tax profits in 1987 of £274,000.

The purchase is from a Dutch company.

It is disposing of the Harford Marina on the Great Ouse River in Cambridgeshire to Mr Barrie Perry for not less than £746,000, with £325,000 deferred until next year. It made profits before tax and contributions to the management company of just £8,000.

Mr Michael Tufnell, a director of MDG, said Mr Perry had been made redundant in March this year, after a boarding party took a 50.1 per cent stake last summer.

Mexican proposal could mark important link with independents

Opec considers 5% export cut

From A Correspondent Vienna

Opec producers were meeting yesterday to discuss a "serious" proposal by non-Opec producers calling for oil export cuts of 5 per cent by both sides, to encourage higher market prices and reduce the world oil glut.

Opec officials reacted positively to the Mexican-sponsored initiative to remove more than 1 million barrels a day in exports from the world market, according to Senior Fernando Hiriart Balderamma, the Mexican energy minister.

"This constitutes a serious situation. It shows that the burden should be shared," Senior Balderamma told journalists in the early hours yesterday.

Both the five-member Opec pricing committee and the seven non-Opec producers began talks on Tuesday to find longer-term solutions to bring stability to the markets. Oil is currently averaging about \$17 (£9) a barrel on world spot markets. North Sea Brent (June) was selling at around \$17.50 yesterday.

However, the Mexican proposal, if enacted, would only remain in effect until the end of the second quarter — late June — before being re-examined.

Analysts and delegation sources both agreed that the proposal would represent an important first step towards co-operation between Opec and independent producers,



Fadhil Al-Chalabi (left) of Iraq, the Opec deputy general secretary, and Rihwanu Lukman, the Opec president, at the meeting in Vienna.

something Opec has not been keen on in the past.

Much of Opec's membership is opposed to further cuts in exports or production, fearful of new competition from smaller non-Opec producers who are increasing output and thus their share of the market.

"We are ready to implement these measures if we find the adequate proportional response from Opec," said Senior Balderamma.

"By proportional we understand Opec could undertake a volume reduction equivalent to 5 per cent of its exports."

Mr Rihwanu Lukman, the Opec president, praised the initiative as one of several "firm proposals" from independent producers.

The "independent seven" comprise Mexico, Egypt, Angola, Malaysia, China, Oman and Colombia. China has the largest production output of the group but Egypt and Mexico are considered its key voices.

Invited observers from Texas, Alberta (Canada) and Norway also attended some sessions and privately met cartel and independent officials.

The US, after the Soviet Union, the world's largest producer of oil and its largest consumer of energy, is not represented officially at the meeting. Britain has also refused to co-operate with Opec resolutions.

Mr Kent Hance of the Texas Railroad Commission, a forerunner of Opec, insisted that he and other "third group" observers from Canada and Norway "are not trying to be part of either group — Opec or non-Opec — here. We are not seeking alliance but a dialogue and an input on issues." He said Texas, if taken on its own, would be the seventh largest oil producer of the world.

ECGD plans key role beyond 1992

By Colin Narborough

Goods sold to other parts of the EEC will still qualify for official export credit insurance after 1992, in spite of the planned creation of the Community-wide "home market", Mr Malcolm Stephens, the chief executive of the Export Credits Guarantee Department, said yesterday.

The Government is trying to prepare British business for the emergence of the Single European Market of 320 million people that should emerge when barriers to trade come down, but has yet to clarify what will be officially counted as exports.

Mr Stephens sees 1992 as just a "step along the road", arguing that his organization's formal mandate remains to treat goods sold across the national border into different currency zones as exports.

He believes the ECGD, which comes under the Department of Trade and Industry, can play a key role in helping exporters meet the challenge of the unified EEC.

Furthermore, he considers that companies selling to Europe would be wise to take out export credit cover for their apparently safe market, as the EEC is not without risks. Company insolvencies, which totalled 100,000 across the Community in 1986, are one potential risk.

To give British exporters the commercial advantage of speed when seeking credit, the ECGD has brought down to 24 hours the maximum time it takes to process the bulk of applications for insurance cover of up to six months.

In spite of the frequent association of credit risk with the political and economic problems of the developing world, European business is very important to the ECGD, accounting for 70 per cent of its short-term cover.

The new clients it is meanwhile pursuing are the 70 per cent of exporters who do not seek export cover.

Gold miner finds a real El Dorado

A British gold mining company has found a 20th century El Dorado in South America and is the first allowed in to explore the exciting prospects. Colin Campbell reports

There can be only a few places left in the world where gold is so visible that it virtually winks at you from the rocks. Equally, there can be few exploration companies with the expertise which can say, with conviction: "If there's gold there, we'll find it and mine it — profitably".

Venezuela is such a country. Gold was discovered there and worked by British interests last century, and before the 1886 discovery of gold in South Africa turned mining heads from South America to Africa.

Monarch Resources, Bermuda registered, London listed and with Lord Shackleton, a former deputy chairman of RTZ, and son of the noted explorer, is such a company.

Monarch raised £6.6 million in its London flotation last July at 295p a share and now at 730p, stands at more than twice its issue price. It is now capitalized at £73 million, will soon report on a profitable year to end-December, and has \$8.5 million cash.

Historically, Venezuela has concentrated on the develop-

ment of oil and secondary deposits. However, the weaker oil price has concentrated the government's mind to look at its other natural resources and it has encouraged Monarch — the first international venture partner for gold allowed in to ensure not a nugget is left untraced.

Monarch's entry card was a management contract for the state-owned Colombia Mine at El Callao — the country's only underground gold mine. What other gold is mined here is by crude digging and riverbed panning. But while Venezuela may still be modest in terms of world production of gold, it is racing up the table.

If South Africa frightens off the politically nervous, and the paths into Australia and North America have already been well trodden, Venezuela is still the yellow brick road.

Monarch has a dozen

promising concession areas in which its equity and profits share is a good half, and there are more in the pipeline.

Monarch is also extracting gold from the Mocuquia Gorge Tailings, an impressive valley into which gold tailing has been swept since 1928 by the Yuruari River. This project needs a gold price of about \$200 to break even. Other concessions include those around the town of El Dorado and there are interests at La Camorra, and Canaima.

The grades in Venezuela startle even the experienced miner, and by comparison with the traditional South African and North American deposits, can rightly be described as fabulous.

There is a 60 per cent tax rate applied to oil and other mining interests, but a long tax holiday is predicted.

Monarch estimates it can

recover gold in open-pit operations with operating costs nearer \$100 than \$200 an ounce, and looks well set to pick most of the golden apples before the big mining houses move in.

Politically, Venezuela is stable and in good standing in international banking circles. The pay-back period for gold mining here is relatively short, and though the British mining houses are so far not evident here, North American groups are regularly flying into Caracas for talks with the government.

The potential competition is likely to spur Monarch to win and develop more concessions as quickly as possible. A further fundraising exercise is thus possible with between £15 million and £20 million being sought, probably in the early summer.

Monarch should, however,

be able to canvass for this additional money, arguing on exploration and development and progress to date, and the lure of richer and more rewarding finds. The rights issue could bring in a band of new investors and lead to a wider market in the shares. At present, trading in Monarch shares is fairly restricted.

But if the 20th century is about to catch up on Venezuela's gold industry, there is a another, more traditional and colourful side of life.

The rivers and the hills in the gold areas are alive with panners, and family diggers whose mining methods would flabbergast even the toughest of stuntsmen. These diggers, invariably operating illegally on other people's concessions, work through an opening no bigger than an ordinary office desk. They go down 50 feet and more on ropes held by two men with a hand-held winch.

For those with the long term in mind, and given the potential that Venezuela offers on the gold front, Monarch could well turn out to be an El Dorado in its own right.


LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Symbol	Strike	Call	Put	Symbol	Strike	Call	Put
ABD Lyon	350	78	77	ABD Lyon	350	77	77
(1427)				(1427)			
ABD Lyon	400	65	57	ABD Lyon	400	57	57
(1427)				(1427)			
ABD Lyon	450	52	46	ABD Lyon	450	46	46
(1427)				(1427)			

Lloyds Bank Mortgage Rate.

Our Mortgage Rate will be reduced to 9.7% p.a. APR 10.2%* and will apply to new and existing borrowers from 3 May 1988.

*The APR shown is typical of loans for 25 years.



Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS.

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
ADT 2,080	Coats 5,898	Land Sec 620	Royal Ind 439
Abbey 4,135	CU 2,991	Laporte 456	Satchi 631

APPOINTMENTS

EBC Amro Bank: Mr John Curtis has been appointed managing director of the special equity and merger group.

Fenchurch Scott Reinsurance Brokers: Mr Jerry Scott will become deputy chairman from May 1. Mr John Chubb is named managing director and Mr Peter Williamson deputy managing director. Mr Iain Hamilton and Miss Carolyn Morley become assistant directors.

Ross Young's: Mr John Howlett is the new managing director.

Miles 33: Mr Jon Richards becomes chairman and Mr Nicholas Jones managing director. Mr Donald Sullivan is named a director and Mr

Tom Hackin legal systems director. Maxwell Communication Corporation: Mr Robert Benn has been appointed deputy finance director.

Rodime: Mr Bob Ashley is a non-executive director. **Honorbilt Group:** Mr Michael Basse and Mr David Mend become directors.

Merlin International Properties: Mr Peter Jevans becomes chairman and chief executive and Mr Graham Jury managing director. Mr Keith Hainsworth has been appointed development director, Mr Andrew Thomas becomes marketing and retail director, and Mr Allan Monk is construction director.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
April 28	April 28	July 14	

EQUITIES

Acro Oil	186 +1
Archer (AJ) (130p)	180
BWD (85p)	74
Brit Pet P/P	78 +4
Central Motor (80p)	100 +1
Dagenham Motors	106 -1

Confederation is pleased to announce the launch of two new unit trusts.

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Japan has provided the world with the most robust of economies with the F.T. Actuaries World Index for Japan up 12.3% in the year to 31st March 1988.

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The Royal Bank of Scotland announces that with effect from 5 May 1988 its House Mortgage Rate will be reduced from 10-25% to 9.75% per annum.

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BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	8.00%
Adam & Company	8.00%
BOCI	8.00%
Consolidated Crib	8.00%
Co-operative Bank	8.00%
C. Hoar & Co	8.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	8.00%
Lloyds Bank	8.00%
Nat Westminster	8.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.00%
TSB	8.00%
Citibank NA	8.00%

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As from 1st May 1988 the name of the firm is

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هكذا من الأفضل

مكازم الأرحل

STOCK MARKET

Allied-Lyons rises on takeover talk

It was the turn of Allied-Lyons, the food and drinks company, to come under the glare of the takeover spotlight yesterday, as the shares soared to a new peak in hectic trading.

The price ended the day 25p higher at 427p as more than 8 million shares were traded following renewed talk that Mr Alan Bond's Australian brewing group Bond Corporation had been topping up its holding in the company.

Mr Bond has been steadily building a holding in Allied since the crash in October.

At the last count, his company had invested almost £220 million in a 7 per cent stake reviving market hopes that a full bid would soon be on the way. But a spokesman for Allied said: "We never comment on market gyrations".

Mr Bond is said to have made several overtures to Allied about closer working arrangements. Allied already produces Bond's Swan and Castlemaine XXXX in the UK under license but is anxious to retain its independence.

Allied has been a strong market of late and having risen by more than 100p since the new year. Last night's flurry of activity added about £180 million to the group's stock market value of £3.01 billion.

Mr Bond will have to move fast if it wishes to gain control of Allied or it could see the price start to move out of its reach.

A number of market-makers were clearly caught short by the sudden surge of de-

mand prompted by the takeover fever in the food sector. Storehouse, the British Home Stores, Habitat-Mohecare, Richards retailing group headed by Sir Terence Conran, was stimulated by Press reports from the Far East that Hong Kong Wharf, the far-eastern property group run by Sir YK Fao, had built up a 2 1/2 per cent holding and was keen to increase it to 25 per cent.

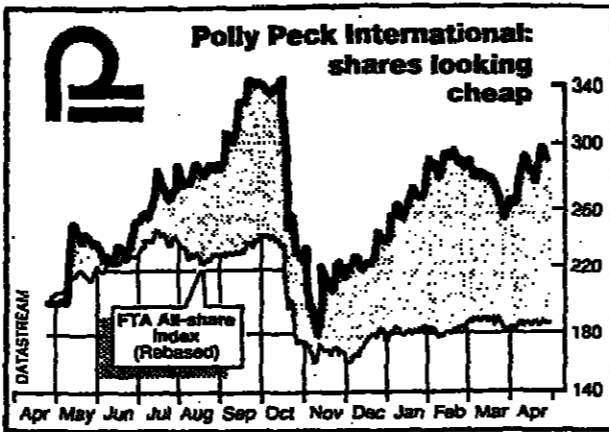
The shares raced up to 287p before closing 7p higher at 283p on a turnover of 8.2 million shares. They recently touched 300p on similar stories and talk of a consortium bid of 350p per share.

Bid fever continued to drive the rest of the equity market higher despite worries about tomorrow's trade figures. But gains were trimmed by false reports that Mr Nigel Lawson,

Glen Abbey, the Irish property developer, jumped 25p to 120p after York Trust Group and GMI Landmark Management bought 375,000 shares each in the company at 130p apiece. Proposed joint ventures by the three companies should be good news for Glen Abbey.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, had resigned. Turnover improved with 517 million shares traded on the Stock Exchange's computer system by the close of business.

The rumours about the Chancellor, emanating from the money markets, saw the FT-SE 100 index lose an early lead of 13.1 to close 5.9 higher at 1,806.7 while the narrower



FT Index of 30 shares gained 17.6 at 1,448.9.

Government securities appeared overshadowed by the flurry of activity in the equity market but still managed to achieve gains of £1.16.

Among the leaders, ICI firmed 1p to £9.93 ahead of first quarter figures later today. Hawker Siddeley was chased 1 1/2p higher to 486p by a big buyer of 170,000 shares and one US buyer was responsible for a 13p gain in Beecham at 479p. Consolidated Gold Fields, the mining finance group, was also being shadowed by a big buyer and closed 35p dearer at 948p.

Renewed talk of a bid for Rascal Electronics lifted the price 7p to 247p, while Thorn EMI advanced 13p to 627p on whispers that Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, had acquired a 3 per cent stake.

Connells Estate Agents, the commercial and residential estate agent, firmed 5p to 315p in a thin market where market-makers are not prepared to

make a market in more than 5,000 shares at a time. Earlier this month the group hoisted pretax profits by almost 40 per cent to £7.3 million with earnings a share 30 per cent higher at 24.5p.

The shares have been the subject of takeover talk from time to time but Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, is telling clients to add to their holdings. It describes Connells as a "highly profitable, independent agent which has reaped rich rewards from its expansion into the commercial sphere".

Polly Peck International, the international trading and manufacturing company headed by Mr Asil Nadir, which closed 5p lower at 295p, is looking "absurdly cheap" according to analysts at County NatWest Woodmac, the broker.

Mr Robert Sassoon and Mr Jeff Ware reckon the group's rating is too low. They anticipate a bumper set of interim figures next month and are

going for a 20 per cent increase in first-half profits to £44.5 million despite the handicap of adverse currency influences.

They expect the main impetus of the improvement to come from the fast growing consumer electronics division. Vestel, which holds the number one position in the colour television and video market in Turkey, has begun to benefit from its drive into more lucrative markets in Europe, mainly the UK, while the company is well on course for being able to supply as much as 10 per cent of the UK colour television market this year.

British Telecom held the overnight level of 246p, but Mr John Clarke, analyst at McCaughan Dyson Capel Cure, believes the shares are a sell.

Deals resume today in Ford Seller Morris Properties, the USM-quoted company, following its £44.6 million acquisition of Singer & Friedlander, the merchant bank. The shares, which were suspended at 95p, are expected to open at between 110p and 115p.

He says that Ofel will recommend tighter controls next month and that the sterling/low risk arguments are fully discounted and the prospect of slower earnings growth makes re-rating unlikely.

Cadbury Schweppes, the chocolate-toft drinks group, replaced Rowntree as

the star turn in the food sector.

The shares soared to 385p at the outset before closing 32p higher at 362p on a turnover of 31 million shares as General Cinema of the US, which already holds a near-18 per cent stake in the company, said it "should no longer be regarded as a passive investor".

Speculators interpreted this as the forerunner to a bid for Cadbury and aggressively bought the shares.

Cadbury's board replied that "any attempted involvement or interference from General Cinema in the management of the business would be unwelcome".

Meanwhile, Rowntree, the Aero, KitKat, Smarties and Rolo chocolate, which soared 178p the previous day in response to Nestlé's welcome offer of 890p a share, rose to 937p, but ended the day 2p lower at 926p. Dealers are taking the view that the shares have some way to go as the bid continues to unravel. Some are forecasting the shares could reach £10 to £10.50 in the short term.

But they ran into profit-taking at the end of the day 3p earlier on balance at 925p on a turnover of 13 million shares.

Other takeover favourites in the sector continued to push forward. Bassett advanced 10p to 241p. Booker 9p to 407p. Fitch Lovell 6p to 266p and Northern Foods 7p to 281p. Hazlewood Foods is said to have built up a near 5 per cent stake in the last named.

Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

WALL STREET

Dow edges higher in early trading

New York (Reuter) - The stock market inched higher in early trading yesterday, with traders attributing part of the gain to buying momentum from a late snap-back on Tuesday.

Oil shares provided some support, advancing moderately as several Opec and non-Opec producers held talks on possible export reductions in Vienna.

The Dow Jones industrial average edged up 2.65 points to 2,047.41 at one stage when the transport indicator slipped 0.15 to 850.66 and the utilities average gained 0.24 to 171.41.

The broader New York Stock Exchange composite index rose 0.21 to 149.14 while Standard & Poor's 500 share index gained 0.44 to 264.37.

Advancing shares led declining issues by a margin of four to three.

The early pace of volume was slow, reflecting concern about arbitrage program-induced volatility, traders said.

Chrysler fell 3/8 to 23 1/2 after reporting its earnings figures. Ford rose 3/4 to 47 1/2 and General Motors 3/8 to 76 1/2.

Mobil, Texaco and Exxon were all active.

Table with columns for various stock indices (Dow Jones, S&P 500, etc.) and a list of individual stocks with their prices and changes.

plans key beyond 1992... Furthermore, he considers that companies...

Table titled 'TRADED OPTIONS' with columns for dates and various market data.

Table with columns for various market data, possibly related to the '1,000 shoe shops' article.

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1,000 shoe shops 'must go'

A reduction in the number of shoe shops - by about 1,000 - is essential because there are too many of them chasing too few sales, says a report on the footwear retailing market. High inflation in the 1970s and early 1980s and the high level of freehold ownership helped to obscure the true rates of sales and profits growth, lulling managements into a false sense of security over their performance which is now found wanting, says Verdict, the retail market research group. Concessions in clothes shops and department stores

Brierley to sell NZI stake

Wellington (AP-Dow Jones) - Brierley Investments is to sell its 35 per cent stake in NZI Corporation, the insurance, banking and financial services group. NZI is New Zealand's fifth largest listed company with a market capitalization of about NZ\$1.37 billion (£487 million). Overseas assets include Arbutnot Latham Bank, the merchant bank, in Britain, and Foreign Commerce Bank in Zurich. Mr Paul Collins, chief executive of Brierley - NZI's biggest shareholder - said exploratory talks were being held with prospective buyers.



Brierley: exploratory talks

reil & Roche... Rose... FROM MORE PLACES, MORE OFTEN, WITH MORE SERVICE



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Wardair Canada is taking off. Since the beginning of April a better scheduled service has started to change the way you fly to Canada. Bringing with it, a class of business... business class that's simply a class above the rest. All this at an introductory special business class fare that's less than the full economy fare on other airlines. And if you wish to take your wife or husband, they'll travel at half price. Still with a little planning take advantage of our exclusive business class excursion fare that right now enables two to fly for the price of one. Now you can fly to Canada with an airline that's ready to meet all your needs. Wardair Canada is the shrewd business choice. For further information or reservations, contact your travel agent or call Wardair Canada on 0345-222333.

Wardair Canada logo and slogan: 'We're in business.'

Main table containing various unit trust information, including fund names, managers, and performance metrics. Columns include fund names, managers, and various performance indicators.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table of foreign exchange rates for various currencies, including Sterling, Dollar, and others. Includes columns for currency, rate, and date.

MONEY MARKETS

Table of money market rates, including overnight, 1-month, and 3-month rates for various currencies.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS

Table of Euro money deposit rates for various banks and currencies, including overnight, 1-month, and 3-month rates.

BULLION

Table of bullion prices, including gold and silver prices in various units.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices, including various metals and agricultural products.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures prices, including various interest rate and currency futures.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices, including various metals and agricultural products.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table of London metal exchange prices, including various metals and their prices.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your... Add them up to give you your...

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Gains trimmed

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 25. Dealings end May 6. Contango day May 9. Settlement day May 16.

Prices recorded at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (an) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 28.)

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000 Claims required for 37 points ACCUMULATOR £54,000 Claims better than 37 points Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Price, Change, % P.E. Includes sectors like Building/Roads, Banks/Discount, Chemicals/Plastics, etc.

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend table with columns: No., Company, Dividend, Yield, % P.E.

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8.00 in Saturday's newspaper.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P.E.

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Table with columns: No., Fund Name, Price, Change, % P.E.

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Table with columns: No., Short Name, Price, Change, % P.E.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Table with columns: No., Short Name, Price, Change, % P.E.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

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UNDATED

Table with columns: No., Short Name, Price, Change, % P.E.

INDEX-LINKED

Table with columns: No., Short Name, Price, Change, % P.E.

BREWERIES

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BUILDING, ROADS

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FINANCE, LAND

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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

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CINEMAS, TV

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P.E.

DRAPERY, STORES

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HOTELS, CATERERS

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INDUSTRIALS A-D

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INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P.E.

Vertical sidebar containing various financial data, exchange rates, and market news.

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THE ARTS 1

TELEVISION

Brought to Book

Claiming to be "a literary guide to the Bible", *Bookmark* (BBC2) uncannily suggested what might happen if Alan Yentob were to sit up all night re-editing an *Everyman* special. Retreating from solemnity, it also evaded seriousness — precisely the gaffe committed by the born-again brigade.

Introduced by the archiepiscopal offspring, director James Runcie, the organizing principle was a textual progression from Genesis to Revelation, each chunk detouring haphazardly into conceptual obliquities.

A beaming nun spoke eloquently of the power of the Bible to change people's lives, but her specific story went unrevealed. Unaccountably glued to an Embankment bench, a philosopher worried about the rival claims for God's benevolence and omnipotence.

Among the splendours of Westminster Abbey's Jerusalem Chamber, P.D. James waxed lyrical over the version that was authorized there without alluding to the supposed contributions of Johnson and Shakespeare. Douay went unmentioned, the *Good News Bible* unroasted.

It may be true that in this godless age the only contact with the Bible that many of us have is an occasional rifle through hotel editions, in forlorn search of the banknotes that the founder of the Gideons once left in such places.

But if the Bible is worthy of consideration as literature (and many of the participants here plainly think so), it merits a coherent and scholarly treatment, not a frivolous exercise in populist tokenism.

An *Ocean Apart* (BBC1) dealt with the reverse colonialism of America's interbellum encroachment on the British Empire's captive markets. Max Factor invaded Bond Street; Ford stormed Dagenham; Firestone annexed Brentford. With the active encouragement of Herbert Hoover, the home appliance of the same name cleaned up on the South Coast, thereby directly inspiring Julian MacLaren Ross's novel *Love And Hunger*.

The chief value of this excellently sharp series is to emphasize how recently American hegemony has been achieved, and to imply how brittle it may yet prove to be.

Martin Cropper

David Robinson reviews an Oscar-winning big business morality tale, a superstar-produced smalltown saga and an uninspired horror film

Where greed is the creed

CINEMA

Wall Street (15)
Odeon Leicester Square

Promised Land (15)
Cannon Tottenham Court Road

Retribution (18)
Cannons Haymarket, Oxford Street and Shaftesbury Avenue.



Taking notes on how to power-lunch: Charlie Sheen (left) and Michael Douglas have their minds on finance rather than food in *Wall Street*

After the jungle warfare of *Salvador* and Vietnam (*Platoon*), Oliver Stone moves to Wall Street and the treacherous battlefronts of New York's Boeskyland in the great bull market of 1985. Charlie Sheen, the innocent hero of *Platoon*, is here a brash and ambitious young broker, Bud Fox. He ingratiates himself with Gekko (Michael Douglas), a top operator in the million-dollar world of insider deals and executive-suite crime, by passing on confidential information about an airline company which he has extracted from his father, a blue-collar union representative in the firm.

Eagerly undertaking industrial espionage and dirty tricks for Gekko, he rises fast to his own private office and million-dollar apartment. All too soon, though, he finds himself out of his depth and outclassed in the necessary qualities of treachery and greed. When he finally falls, he achieves an ambivalent sort of redemption, by bringing down Gekko with him.

Stone has a personal link with this world: his father was a stockbroker, and one imagines that the honourable old-style boss of Bud's brokerage firm (Hal Holbrook) is intended as a family portrait.

Father figures are important in the dramatic scheme of Stone's scripts. In *Platoon*, Sheen was torn between two surrogate fathers represented by the good and demonic sergeants. Here he is agonizingly divided between loy-

alties to his mentor and ideal, Gekko, and his real father (played by Sheen's own father, Martin Sheen), symbolizing old-fashioned, unprofitable decency.

Shot in an appropriately restless, nervy camera style (by Robert Richardson), *Wall Street* describes in documentary detail — which may be tough going on those who are not amateurs of the City pages — the workings of the trading floor.

Stone evidently intended a statement on an age and a class dominated by greed and unburdened by conscience. Gekko tells an approving shareholders' meeting, "Greed is good. Greed is

right. Greed wins. Greed captures the essence of the evolutionary urge. Greed has motivated the upward surge of mankind."

He is full of epigrams: "There is no nobility in poverty any more"; "What's worth doing is worth doing for money"; "The main thing about money is that it makes you do things you don't want to do". Father Sheen's view is understandably different: "Money's something you need in case you don't die tomorrow".

The problem is that bad people are always so much more fun than good ones; and the material rewards and sheer excitement of yuppiedom are irresistibly seduc-

tive. Although his megalomania could have been done with a sometimes less mephistophelean touch, Michael Douglas's Gekko is easily the most appealing and vivid character in the film — and won him an Oscar to prove it.

Martin Sheen's solid citizen cannot compete with Douglas's lines. Even Stone's own belief in redemption seems dubious: when Bud agrees to meet Gekko, wired for bugging, his betrayal of his fallen idol seems motivated not so much by remorse as revenge.

Stone's *Wall Street* is a man's world: the women get very little more look-in than they did in *Platoon*. Mostly they are loyal and

silent secretaries. Sheen has a brief affair with a brittle Manhattan decorator (Daryl Hannah) who does dreadful things to apartments with polystyrene plasterwork, gold leaf and million-dollar modern abstracts. Sylvia Miles makes a brief appearance as an odious real estate agent.

Promised Land was developed by Robert Redford's Sundance Institute in Utah, where the film was shot. As executive producer, Redford offers a portentous introduction: "I think our country is in a real transition at the moment... *Promised Land* took place in the middle part of America where there is some

confusion and anxiety, mostly among young people, about where their future is going. I thought *Promised Land* addressed the issue in a talented way."

In the outcome, he was mistaken. The vignettes of small-town life and the vast dramatic landscapes which dwarf the characters indicate that the film makers actually hoped to make some big social statement about the problems of the young in America here and now. The trouble is that the characters they have created are boring, undirected, self-centred people who would reliably make a mess of their lives any time.

The film opens in the glory days of high school with Davy (Jason Gedrick) and Danny (Kiefer Sutherland) as the golden lads of the basketball team and Mary (Tracy Pollan) as their favourite cheer-leader.

Two years later, Davy has become a disconsolate small-town cop, getting his kicks on the shooting range; Mary is a disconsolate academic, wishing she had a husband and kids; and Danny, having left town, is enmeshed in matrimony with a tiresome neurotic drunk (Meg Ryan). As might be predicted, it does not end well.

It is a film remarkably lacking any inherent rhythm. As it cuts arbitrarily between one group of characters and another, it is hard to tell who is going where and why, and though they talk incessantly about their problems, the young people stay flimsily two-dimensional.

Although native Americans, the writer-director Michael Hoffman and the producer Rick Stevenson began their film making while at Oxford where they made a brave independent film called *Privilege*.

Retribution is an overlong, poorly plotted horror film which depends on a crashing noisy sound track and derivative and desperate Grand Guignol nastiness: viz. one victim is bisected on a butcher's circular saw; another burns off his own hand with a blow-torch; a drunken lady disembowels herself with a kitchen knife. The audience is likely to recognize the stock revenge-from-beyond-the-grave plot much sooner than does the obtuse cast of sleuths and psychiatrists. The debutant director was Guy Magar.

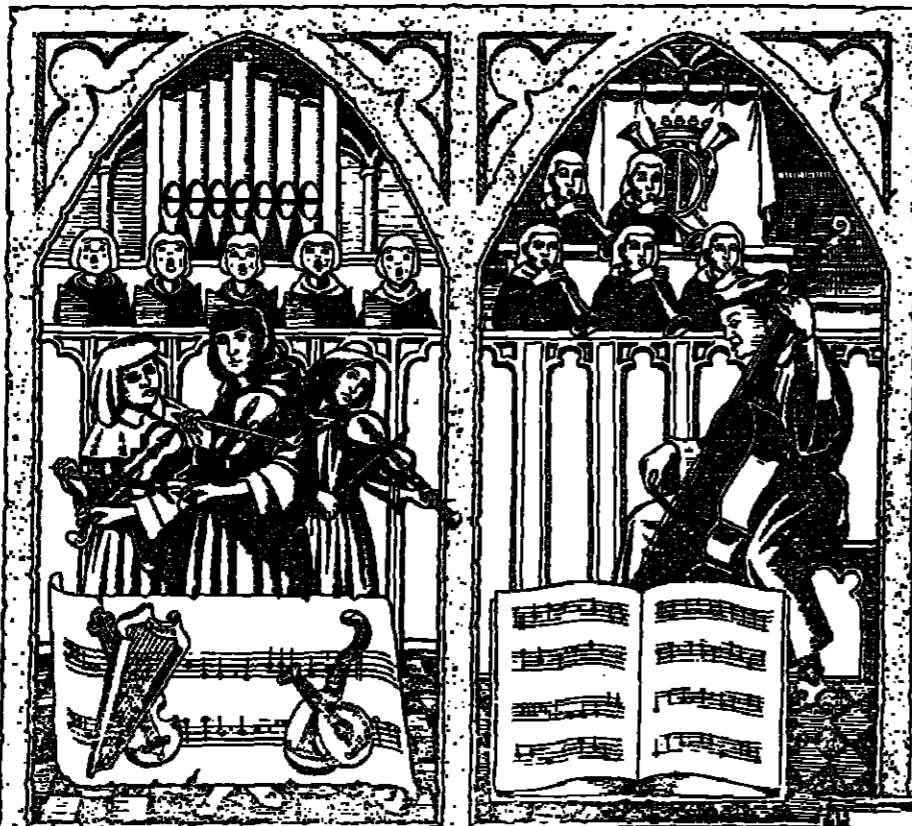
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THE ARTS 2

Glorious Follies

THEATRE

Ziegfeld Palladium

The last thing anybody wants in a show about the Ziegfeld Follies is any probing into the motives of the man who devoted his career, and wrecked his marriages, in the cause of "glorifying the American girl".

That, at least, is the opinion of the Palladium's Ziegfeld, first seen in the act of tearing a would-be biographer's work to pieces, and staging the show himself as the last and greatest of his Follies.

This is an adroit move by the authors — Ned Sherrin and Alistair Beaton — as it enables the hero to start at the top, and to flood the stage instantly with Joe Layton's luscious chorus line, which are what the customers most want to see.

The subject has two built-in advantages: a collection of marvellous old songs, and a sumptuous wardrobe. These things money can buy, and it has been well spent on Theoni V. Aldredge's costumes, from the opening pony ballet, to subsequent excursions into Japanese floral kitsch, a dance of the planets, and the ultimate apotheosis of the great showman, aloft in a champagne glass looking down on a forest of white ostrich plumes.

That is what you expect. The unexpected bonus is that of an extremely crafty book. Up to the interval it consists largely of Follies material, reworked so as to telegraph key events in the hero's life. The ingenious Dolly Sisters (Jaynee and Michelle Jordan) go through their twins routine, smuggling in damaging bits of extra-



Surrounded by his follies? Len Cariou and the ladies in Ziegfeld's life

marital evidence in the process of showering compliments on their employer. Meanwhile, Ziegfeld observes the performance from his private box, energetically intervening to cut, correct, or take over a number himself.

Len Cariou, a resolutely aggressive Shakespearean actor, is ideally cast on this occasion: a neat dancer, superbly articulate in song

and conveying the sense of an ego so fully gratified that he seldom has cause to throw his weight about.

We see him sweeping his Parisian first wife (Fabienne Guyon) to stardom; cheating on her (in a hilarious hat shop sketch) with the raucous Lillian (Aliki Georgiou), and making a grand second marriage with Haydn Gwynne's

Billie Burke, at which point the show modulates into opera.

Just, however, when it seems that Flo is getting everything his own way, a meeting between two rival women signals that he is losing control and, with a thrilling gear-change, the story takes on its own momentum, and the great stage manager is reduced to a victim hounded by Mafia creditors, and left to die alone with a mountain of debts. There is no moralizing; only a well-told tale.

Besides all his ladies, Cariou is partnered by Geoffrey Hutchings, playing a string of funny little men from an enraged Irish milkman to a high-speed Spanish waiter. What he represents is the comic profession, to which Ziegfeld gave a hard time, and which now takes its revenge, with Hutchings's transformation into a Mafia leader, enacting a Sweeney Todd manoeuvre to the backing of Rossini's *Barber*.

The one structural flaw in the piece derives from its music. The intention is to process them into production numbers (as in the case of Michael Reed's sleeky woodwind arrangement of "Harvest Moon"), but too often they are simply left to run their course, and as — with the glorious exception of Louise Gold's one-woman brass section — there are no remarkable voices in the company, the songs repeatedly ground the narrative to no good purpose.

Otherwise, the production is a remarkable stylistic achievement, presenting the old revue routines so that we can laugh both with and at them, and building in new sketches. The whole show is sustained by a central pun in which the Ziegfeld Follies gradually changes into Ziegfeld's follies.

Irving Wardle

Potent images grip the mind

The Merchant of Venice Barbican

Even before the first line Bill Alexander's production makes unmistakably clear that something is rotten in this state of Venice.

Kit Sarsley's platform set is placed at an imaginary water's edge, beneath a high bridge framing two coloured images on the crumbling wall beyond: one is a saintly Christian mural, the other a Star of David, crudely daubed, and the setting is prepared for a rough Jew-baiting of an intensity unapproached in my experience.

As Irving Wardle noted in his appraisal of the play last year at Stratford, the behaviour of these Christians would have won the applause of Julius Streicher. Antonio spits at Shylock within seconds of being granted his debts. The band of ragamuffins who scamper in the background of the street scenes — following a textual cue most companies are too short-handed to follow — mock the Jew's progress and pelt him with muck.

Justified, knocked to the ground, pelleted with spit, the extreme attacks supply further fuel for his revenge but risk making irrelevant everything that does not revolve around his story.

Antonio Sher's bushy-haired Levantine is a mesmerizing centrepiece, a dangerously charming figure when first seen, squatting on his cushion like some genial uncle in a fairy tale, and moving from there to the terrible behaviour at the trial where his hands sweat with excitement and he gleefully rocks on his feet as his moment with the knife approaches.

I do not know the nature of the earnest rituals that Sher performs with shawl and prayer before advancing on his victim but it is the sort of scenic colour that in other epochs would have the mob baying for Jew blood.

Earlier in the scene he grabs Portia's coloured slave Balthasar to illustrate Venice's steely reverence for bonds. It is a well imagined incident which also serves as a reminder that the play's only instance of colour prejudice is spoken by Portia herself when the black Prince of Morocco stalks out of her life.

The Belmont scenes are straightforwardly played but with not much in the way of thrills or delight, save for the eruption of joy from Portia's servants when Bassanio (Nicholas Farrell) chooses the right casket. Deborah Fildes speaks Portia's verse sensibly but emotions are curiously uncertain. Ringing voices have not yet returned to fashion but such dryness is not a good exchange.

The final Belmont scene is also too dry and bloodless to exert any healing power, and it looks as if Bill Alexander is deliberately eschewing any such effect as wrapping up the harsh memories of the trial with love and jolly pranks.

Even after the last words are spoken, and John Carlisle's supremely melancholy Antonio is left alone on the stage, he is left there with Shylock's daughter and makes use of this opportunity to tempt her with a crucifix held just out of reach.

Though the pace of the production is sometimes too leisurely, images like this take hold of your mind.

Jeremy Kingston

Over-emphatic serenade Under-played dynamics

CONCERTS

Hagegard/Jones Queen Elizabeth Hall

In the first of a series of "Late Lunches" as part of the South Bank's "End Games" concerts (with a special menu before or after the music), Hakan Hagegard sang a near-operatic account of Schubert's *Winterreise*. The Swedish baritone, with Warren Jones at the piano, gave an earnest of his intentions right from the first song, in which the poet's promise not to disturb his sweetheart's dreams as he crept by sounded more like an early alarm-call.

Clive Davis

emotional breast-beating. After the assertive, sometimes declamatory, character the singer brought to the first dozen songs, however, the second half found a better balance between voice and piano and a subtler blend of words and music.

Here the imaginative feeling of "Der greise Kopf" or the affecting lilt of "Tauschung" were more to be enjoyed, had it not been for the sound of early-goers among the audience breaking the continuity as they crept away between songs, just as late-comers had crept in 15 minutes after the start.

Noël Goodwin

Since its underlying themes are the persecution of the weak and the threatening of purity and innocence, *Theodora* might have made a good subject for a Britten opera. In fact it is a Handel oratorio, almost his last.

The story is apparently dramatic enough: a Christian virgin, the first threatened with forced prostitution, then executed with her Roman-soldier boyfriend, for refusing to honour the Roman god Jove. Yet Handel's treatment is not only contemplative and philosophical rather than passionate and pictorial, it is also extremely sombre and austere.

Theodora Queen Elizabeth Hall

Theodora must be one of the bleaker "end games" contemplated by a usually buoyant creative mind. Moreover, although some of Theodora's soliloquies are moving and dignified, the work generally has fewer memorable melodies, and certainly fewer thrilling choruses than the average Handel oratorio. This, and a truly appalling Morell libretto, doubtless accounts for its comparative neglect.

This performance, by the London Handel Choir and Or-

chestra under Denys Darrow's direction was technically secure enough (apart from a few uncertain pickups) but crucially lacking in conviction about mood, dynamic variety and pacing.

But there was much excellent solo singing from that peerless counter-tenor Michael Chance as the sympathetic Roman, Nancy Argenta as a clear-toned (if occasionally consonant-less) Theodora, and a most promising tenor, John Mark Ainsley, who negotiated the work's rare moments of florid passage work with ideal neatness and definition.

Richard Morrison

Travel-worn troops' luxury and precision

CBSO/Rattle Birmingham

Newly back from their tour of the United States, Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra sounded superbly confident, but perhaps a little travel-worn on Tuesday in a programme of central 20th century classics.

There was certainly no want of

enthusiasm, but the performance of Stravinsky's *Apollo* sagged under a load of poor ensemble and stumbling articulation. Even the depth of texture Rattle finds in this score, and the glamorous magic of the opening of the "Pas de deux", could not quite rescue a piece that demands virtuosic playing.

Weber's Six Pieces op.6 it was much easier to appreciate the characterfulness and willingness of the Birmingham style. Indeed,

the score sounded new, not only because Rattle preferred the 1928 revision to the lavish original version that Boulez has made familiar, but also because so much detail was made to tell: particularly the *sal posticcio* episodes.

The funeral march moved coldly to an immense climax, and the next piece, possibly the most enigmatic of the set, made more sense than ever before in my experience.

There was also much strong detail to admire in the accompaniment to Berg's Violin Concerto, which sounded as sensuously and catastrophically impassioned as *Lulu*: the connection was brought out particularly by the prominence of the saxophone, and the way the harp and goings at the end evoked the sound of the vibraphone.

György Franz's singing solo performance made light of the work's technical and expressive difficulties, but the orchestra stood

in need of more rehearsal to keep pace with his perfectly reasonable and, indeed, necessary tempo fluctuations.

At the end, there was the final scene from Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé*, a Rattle party piece that at last found the orchestra combining luxury with precision. They play the same programme at the Barbican Hall tonight.

Paul Griffiths

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inspired horror film

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Confusion and anxiety mostly among young people, about where their future is going. I thought *Promised Land* addressed the issue in a talented way.

In the outcome, he was miserable and the vast dramatic landscapes which dwarf the characters actually helped to make some of the young in America more of the boring, untalented, self-centred people who would reliably make a mess of their lives any time.

The film opens in the glory days of high school with Davey (Jason Gedrick) and Danny (Kiefer Sutherland); at the golden age of the basketball team and Mary (Tracy Pollan) as their favourite cheerleader.

Two years later, Davey has become a discombobulated small-town cop, getting his kicks on the shooting range. Mary is a disgraced academic, wishing she had a husband and kids; and Danny, having left town, is embroiled in matrimony with a tiresome, neurotic, and somewhat unattractive woman (Meg Ryan). As night falls, it does not end well. It is a film remarkably lacking in any inherent rhythm. As it cuts arbitrarily between one group of characters and another, it is left to tell what is going where and why, and though they talk incessantly about their problems, the young people stay flimsily two-dimensional.

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

April 28, 1988

Douglas Eyeions, a computer services expert, says prosperity depends on adjustment to the new employment structure

More than 90 per cent of the jobs advertised in *The Times* are concerned with vacancies for people who are not directly engaged in making things or performing physical services. These are the "information workers" — people who spend their working hours in collecting, absorbing, transcribing, analysing, storing, transmitting or communicating information.

Increasingly, information is coming to be regarded as one of the most important resources of an organization because information equals power. There is a rapidly growing demand for this resource and the skilled people who can handle it.

As the computers increase in power they process more and more information; as communication channels increase in bandwidth, the rate at which information circulates gets faster and faster. So more and more people are needed to participate in the information revolution, which is taking us into the new age of information.

Today more than half the working population are information workers and the proportion is increasing year by year as the basic industries become increasingly automated and less labour-intensive. Only about 15 per cent of these information workers are employed in organizations whose

The big jobs revolution of today has switched to the information workers



The factories that manufacture the hardware are becoming increasingly automated as the robots take over, and the robots themselves are now being manufactured by robots in automated factories. The financially successful manufacturing companies employ fewer production workers and more information workers.

The key to future economic success lies in our becoming an advanced information society where the vast majority of the workforce are engaged in knowledge-based occupations while the manufacturing and services industries become increasingly automated and capital-intensive rather than labour-intensive.

Most of the people reading this newspaper are information workers, whether they realize it or not, and many of them are examples of the structural changes in employment that are taking our society from an industrial economy to an information economy. It is vital for our future prosperity that we recognize this fact and educate our workforce to play its true part in the new age of information.

Dr Douglas Eyeions has been director-general of the Computing Services Association since 1979, and is the senior permanent official of the European Computing Services Association consisting of the national associations of 17 European countries.

primary output is direct information in some form or other such as databases, news services, broadcasting or publishing. But this percentage is growing rapidly.

The vast majority of these information workers deal with intermediate information that is not part of the final output in the production of goods or the supply of services. They are employed by organizations covering the whole range of industry and commerce in such fields as manufacturing, distribution, retailing and professional services. These employees constitute a high proportion of the workforce in most large companies, starting with the switch-board operator, who is the first input information node of the organization, through to the sales analyst, who reports on final sales.

In any large organization there are many other information workers such as clerks, accountants, secretaries, planners, marketing specialists and managers, who deal only with information and never come into direct contact with the actual final product of the organization.

For example, there is certainly a vast army of information workers in financial services who never touch the actual money in which they are dealing, so that information about money is becoming more important than money itself.

Only 2 per cent of the UK working population are now em-

ployed in agriculture compared with more than 70 per cent in the 18th century. The percentage of the workforce engaged in manufacturing peaked out at about 40 per cent around the middle of this century and has been dropping ever since.

In the great movements that have taken place over the decades in the distribution of the workforce, there has been an incessant increase in the number of information workers required to satisfy an ever-growing need. And now that food, clothing and shelter requirements can be met by a smaller and smaller percentage of the gross domestic product, a greater amount is spent on information in its widest sense.

For example, television, radio, films, books, newspapers and database services are all subject to an increasing demand as leisure time increases and as the importance of information as a

contributor to profitability becomes more and more obvious.

A common misconception is that the majority of today's workers are employed in service industries and that there is an inevitable move from manufacturing to services that will continue into the foreseeable future. The fact is that the service industries are now being subjected to intense automation, just as agriculture and manufacturing have been intensely automated in the past.

Instead of seeing the shift in employment as a change from manufacturing to services, it should be seen as a shift from manufacturing to the information occupations as we move out of the industrial age into the information age. The majority of the workforce will be employed not in agriculture, manufacturing or services, but in dealing with information.

Admittedly, such service industries as travel, leisure and health care are increasing in their employment at the present time, but all the repetitive parts of these services are being automated wherever possible and the information content of the remaining tasks is increasing.

The automation of the service industries is continuing apace. Bank clerks are being displaced by cash-dispensing machines, ticket-collectors are being displaced by automatic ticket machines, and the computers are taking over relentlessly where only simple decision-making is involved.

We should be raising the general level of awareness of these fundamental changes in employment patterns and gearing our educational and training systems to produce information workers who

will be dealing with intellectual property and software rather than with tangible goods or physical services.

We are moving out of the era of hardware into the era of software. Already the number of people in this country engaged in the manufacture of computer hardware is smaller than the number in the computing software industry.

Similarly, the interests in the software or programmes for television is increasing while the labour content of the television hardware is decreasing. A further example is provided by the increasing number of information workers employed in writing articles and reports for books, magazines, newspapers etc, while the printing process is being increasingly automated and employing fewer people.

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The NFHA needs a man or woman with ability, drive and commitment to pursue a positive future for social housing.

Qualities required must include:

- * a wide understanding of housing and related social and economic policy issues
- * strong public and personal communication skills
- * experience of negotiating at the highest levels of government, voluntary and private sector organisations
- * management ability to lead and motivate a lively and talented staff team.

Applications should be sent to Jack David, Vice Chair, NFHA, c/o Denise Backhouse, Personnel Officer (internal), 175 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UP. Tel: 01-278 6571.

All enquiries will be treated in confidence. The closing date for applications is Friday 13th May 1988. Interviews will be held on 25th May and 1st June 1988.

The NFHA is working to implement an equal opportunities policy and positively welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD RESEARCH COUNCIL (AFRC)
DIRECTOR OF GRASSLAND AND ANIMAL PRODUCTION RESEARCH
£30,344-£31,844 (Pay Award pending)

Applications are invited for the post of Director of Grassland and Animal Production Research to succeed Professor J H D Prescott, who has resigned to become Principal of Wye College, University of London.

The person appointed will be directly responsible to the Secretary to the AFRC for the management of the AFRC Institute for Grassland and Animal Production Research. The Institute comprises the Animal and Grassland Research Station at Hurley (near Maidenhead), the Welsh Plant Breeding Station at Aberystwyth and outstations at North Wyke (near Okehampton), Bronydd Mawr (near Brecon), Shinfield (near Reading) and Roslin (near Edinburgh).

The Director will be expected to make a major contribution to the continuing development of a grassland and animal production research strategy, including support of research in universities and in related industry. The post carries membership of the Council's Management Board.

Candidates should be highly qualified in grassland and animal production research or a related area, with a distinguished record in research, a knowledge of the related industries and considerable experience, at a senior level, in the management of research.

Non-contributory pension.

The successful candidate may qualify for assistance with removal expenses.

The AFRC is an Equal Opportunities Employer. Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from Mr J M Y Dickens, Chief Personnel Officer, Agricultural and Food Research Council, 160 Great Portland Street, London W1N 8DT (01-580 9655 ext. 258). The closing date for applications is 16 May 1988.

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The Commonwealth Development Corporation is concerned with the promotion, operation and management of a wide variety of commercial enterprises, including major agricultural estates and smaller projects in the developing world, and wishes to strengthen its appraisal of development projects and acting as visiting adviser to existing projects, so you must be prepared to travel extensively.

Aged 40-50, you should possess a recognised relative degree and have substantial relevant practical experience of the type of work involved.

Compensating salary will be negotiable, and benefits include membership of a non-contributory pension fund, with additional benefits in the case of extended visits overseas.

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For full details please call the personnel department now on 0903 750310 or write to TOPS Holidays, 34/36 South Street, Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 8AG.

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April 28, 1988
ent structure

The factories that manufacture the hardware are becoming increasingly automated as robots take over, and the factories themselves are now being run by robots in some cases. The financially sounder manufacturing companies employ fewer production workers and more information workers.

The key to future economic success lies in our becoming an advanced information society where the vast majority of the workforce are engaged in knowledge-based occupations while the manufacturing and service industries become increasingly automated and capital-intensive rather than labour-intensive.

Most of the people reading this newspaper are information workers, whether they realise it or not, and many of them are examining the structural changes in companies that are taking our economy from an industrial economy to an information economy. It is for our future prosperity that we recognize this fact and educate our workforce to play its true part in the new age of information.

Dr Douglas Eyton has been director-general of the Computing Services Association since 1974 and is the senior personnel official of the European Computing Services Association consisting of the national associations of 11 European countries.

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£40,000

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For further details, please contact
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Director Public Appointments,
ref. A 57050,
MSI International,
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Arun District Council

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

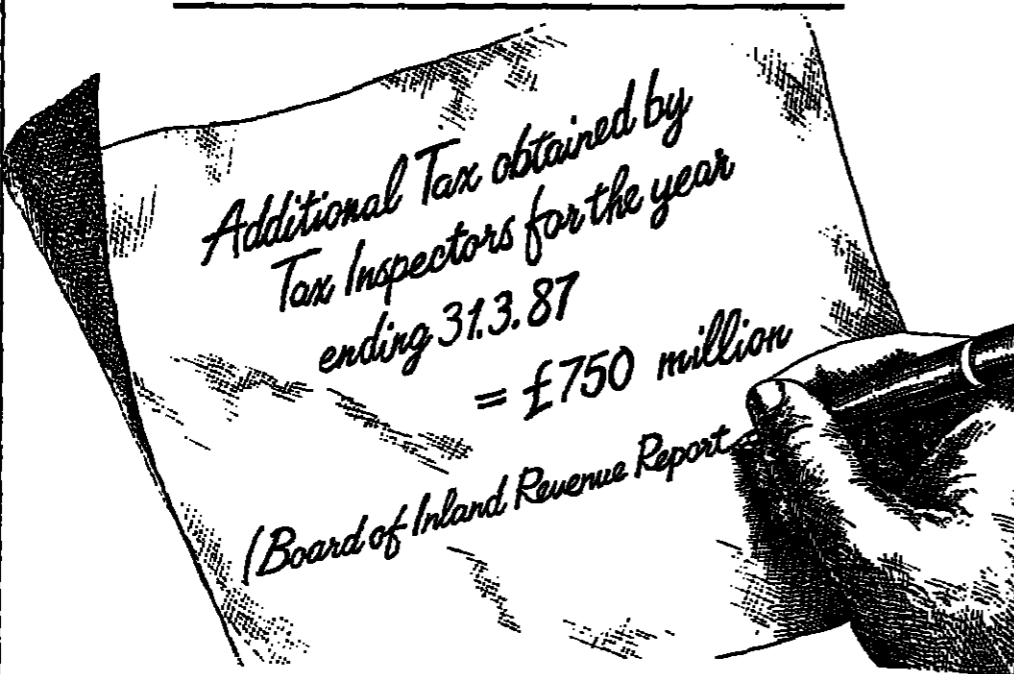
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MSL International



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required for Residential Lettings Department of a major office. Excellent terms and conditions. Experienced negotiators should forward CV to: Keith Cardale Groves, 22 Gower Street, London, W1 or telephone 01-233-0204.

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ORGANISER... Engineers and Managers... successful applicant will...

HORIZONS

A guide to career development

The perils of going solo

Having obtained a qualification in boat-building... I was not that he had been unsuccessful... At other times business tended to be slack...



Half the new small-businesses started do not last three years, and only 40 per cent of the survivors reach their tenth birthday... Unless you are extremely lucky, self-employment is synonymous with hard work rather than easy money...

Such thrills and spills are not to everyone's taste... Responsibility is a burden that can weigh heavily on one person's shoulders... Nowadays, Andrew is much happier and more relaxed...

John Lyons, General Secretary, Station House, Fox Lane North, Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 9HW...

RESTED IN PROPERTY MANAGEMENT? PKG £11,000... STRATION LAGER on NW1... Age c 40-45...

FURNISHING FABRICS DISTRIBUTION... DMC TEXUNION, A LEADING FRENCH MANUFACTURER OF PRINTED FABRICS, SEEKS A MANAGING DIRECTOR...

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Urban Development & Environment)... The Welsh Development Agency plays a key role in the expanding programme of urban redevelopment...

FOR TEXTILES (FCD) LTD, ITS NEWLY ACQUIRED SALES COMPANY IN LONDON... This post would suit a dynamic, well-motivated Sales Manager with proven experience...

WDA WELSH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY... In the first instance please telephone Mr T Stanton on 0272 736767 or send your CV to: Mr T Stanton...

LE COURT Hampshire's Leopard Chessite Foundation Home for Severely Physically Disabled People... HEAD OF HOME... Applications for this challenging full time post...

GENERAL MANAGER... A European manufacturer needs a young enterprising Manager to further develop its successful U.K. Marketing & Sales Operation.

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT... Holborn c.£40K (pre)... We are a leading recruitment consultancy with offices in London, Brighton and Reading, specialising in Financial Services and Law...

ADVERTISING SALES ON TARGET EARNINGS £40K p.a... The launch of a series of major international titles has created opportunities for effective ambitious sales people...

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JOHN D WOOD & CO... London and Country Estate Agents

Share in our Success Nationwide RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS High Earnings Potential... Accountancy Personnel, Britain's leading specialist recruitment consultancy is committed to a policy of expansion...

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NATIONAL SALES MANAGER c. £50k + package... HOME IMPROVEMENT MARKET RESPONSIBLE FOR SALES TARGETS START NEW BRANCH OFFICES RECRUITMENT & TRAINING... This is a major opportunity for the right person...

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Accountancy Personnel... 14 Great Castle Street, Oxford Circus, London W1N 7AD

Judy Farquharson Limited... 47 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9HA, 01-493 8824... "HEADHUNTING" Commercially aware graduates with 2+ years experience in property, computers, consumer or industry...

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SALES MANAGER OFFICE EQUIPMENT MARKET... London based Group seeks Sales Manager to run business specialising in the supply of office equipment and stationary within Greater London...

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CHIMICAL SALES OTE £20K +... International Chemical Company needs 5 people aged 20-30 years immediately. Guaranteed salary plus high commission plus excellent benefits and holiday/travel allowance...

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We pride ourselves on the professionalism of our organisation and the constant improvement of our services. We have high expectations of the two professionals (CIPFA preferred) we appoint to these positions, geared to strengthen our technical section. Your own expectations will be met - an excellent salary and benefit package and an environment which offers support and encouragement, progression.

CHIEF TECHNICAL ACCOUNTANT

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- To lead the Technical Section with the view to achieving divisional targets
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- To implement and develop new systems and computer technology.

We are looking for sound experience in this field combined with considerable management ability. This high profile role will ensure excellent future prospects, as the departing post holder has discovered to his benefit!

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- Working on your own initiative on specific projects
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 - Learn at the highest level and provide information on technical finance issues.
- This is a new and demanding role for an individual with a genuine interest in the subject.

BOTH ROLES OFFER:

- leased car
- substantial housing subsidy
- relocation expenses
- paid overtime

If you would like to discuss these roles please phone Mike Parsons, Assistant Director of Finance, on 01-545 3584.

Application forms are available by ringing 01-545 3277 and should be returned by 13th May 1988 to the Support Services Section, Finance Department, Crown House, London Road, Morden, Surrey SM4 5DX.

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Merton is an Equal Opportunities Employer. All applications will be considered on their merits.



ENTREPRENEURIAL ACA

AGE 25-28

City Based

c. £30,000 + Car

Our client is one of the most prestigious and successful asset-based financing organisations in the UK. Their market place demands an increasing degree of expertise and sophistication, particularly in their key areas of aircraft, property and film finance.

commercial approach. Initially, the work will involve assisting in deal-making activity but will lead to the individual initiating and controlling major financings within two years.

Occasional visits of up to two weeks duration to Japan, Australia and the USA should be expected and the pressures are such that long working hours can be expected from time to time. In return outstanding financial rewards are available in the medium term.

Interested applicants should write to Fiona McGahan ACA at the address below, or call her for further information on 01-930 7850.

ROBERT WALTERS ASSOCIATES

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

66-68 Haymarket London SW1Y 4RF Telephone: 01-930 7850

Swap Trader

To £60K base salary plus bonus plus benefits

Our client is one of the world's leading investment banks with a substantial presence in the international capital markets.

to late 20s with at least two years' experience in the market running their own book.

The bank's swaps activity is based in London, where there is a team of traders, marketers and technical staff. Swap groups in New York and Tokyo report to the Head of Swaps in London and all swap transactions are authorised in London.

Career prospects are excellent. The base salary will be up to £60K and in addition there will be the opportunity to earn a very substantial performance-related bonus. There is also a range of investment banking benefits.

Because of the Swap team's success in London, the bank is seeking an additional Swap trader. Applicants should be graduates in their mid

Those interested should forward a comprehensive career resumé to Nick Bennett or Nick Root at Michael Page City, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH. Confidentiality is assured.



Michael Page City

International Recruitment Consultants
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An excellent situation has just been created in London.

U.K. income tax rates are now lower than most other European countries. On the strength of this, Merrill Lynch are aiming to expand the services we provide to Private Clients.

We are looking for high performance registered representatives to work in one of our London Offices. Are you one of them?

Do you have at least 2 years experience in banking, securities or insurance and have a salary of around £25,000?

Are you organised, assertive, self-motivated, ethical, goal orientated and able to take direction?

Would you like to work for one of the largest and most creative global firms in the industry, which provides training and a wide range of relevant products and services with an involved, strong, non-competing and motivating management?

If so, contact Walter Elliott between 9am and 7pm on the 28th and 29th April or 3rd and 4th May on 01-581 7451.



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Corporate Finance

The Institutional Dimension

c.£28,000+bens.

The ability to evaluate financial detail and the commercial flair to advise the most senior corporate clients on strategy and timing, illustrate the type of skills required for a successful career in Corporate Finance.

Add to these diplomacy, and the ability and determination to work under considerable pressure and you will understand why this area represents such a stimulating and rewarding career challenge.

We are currently acting as consultant to a number of leading U.K. Merchant Banks who have asked us to assist in the initial briefing and selection of suitable applicants.

If you are a graduate and qualified either as an accountant or lawyer, then Corporate Finance could be an ideal career option.

To arrange an initial informal discussion, phone Roger Tittle M.A. or Mike Masterson B.A. (Cantab.) or write enclosing full career details. We will be pleased to offer impartial advice, in the strictest confidence, prior to the submission of your application.

the fleet partnership

Financial Recruitment Consultants, 37/41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. 01-831 1101 (24 hours)

GENERAL APPTS.

Continued from page 35

GROUP PUBLIC RELATIONS

Due to retirement, we seek a replacement group public relations executive responsible for all promotional work: press relations, literature (design/photography/print/advertising), annual product/internal newspaper, and video/events/displays etc.

We are the leading environmental engineers to the computer user industry. Nine companies with 300 employees.

The selected executive, preferably a-house MPhil with knowledge (some technical writing) of air conditioning/refrigeration products, will be rewarded with a good salary, company car, company pension, profit sharing and four-week/statutory holidays.

Applications, in writing/in confidence to Mr George West, Group Chairman, giving outline of qualifications/experience and success story to date.

Circle E17,000



Wright Air Conditioning Ltd
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 Camp Hill, Birmingham B11 1BL
 A Whitley Company

BOOKEEPER

Required for a fashion company in West End with experience upto trail balance. Typing useful but not essential. Age 25ish. Salary upto £11,000 p.a. depending on experience.

Tel: 631 3959
 No agencies

GENERAL APPTS.

ARE YOU CURRENTLY IN SALES?

and hate the hours and the pressure?
 But... you still want to earn £250 per week?

...Then write enclosing full C.V. to Maggie Vaughan, Colour Library Books Ltd, Unit B4, Godalming Business Centre, Catteshall Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XW.

You would be self-employed working only during office hours for a multi-million pound UK publishing company, delivering samples and collecting orders. There is absolutely no hard selling. You would need your own car and telephone.

SALES EXECUTIVES

£13,000 BASIC + CAR + BENEFITS

Leading corrugated manufacturers need an experienced sales person to cover North London/Essex. Reference 41755.

For an immediate interview contact:
 Premiers Employment on 0442 231370.

ENGINEERING

CUSTOMER SERVICE ENGINEER(S)

SALARY: ENegotiable

HOURS: 35 hour week - Monday to Friday (some overtime may be required)

QUALIFICATIONS: HNC Electronics (City and Guilds) (TEC) or equivalent.

DUTIES: Site responsibility for advanced CT products.

Applicants should have considerable experience and be capable of working without close supervision. Fault finding to component level is essential.

Apply in writing with a full c.v. and indication of your salary expectation to:
 The Company Secretary
 Elscint (GB) Ltd
 Tower Road, Berrinsfield, Oxford OX9 8LW

ACCOUNTANT

Accounts Office Manager required by North London Building Contracting & Estate Agency companies. The person appointed will have the following qualifications:

- Experience of producing final accounts from incomplete records.
- Capability of computerising the accounts department, to have the ability of producing regular financial & management accounts.
- Extensive experience in credit control, credit management, debt collection & court procedures.
- Practical experience of managing accounts staff.
- Good knowledge of company taxation.
- Age 26-35.

Send C.V. to Colmans Builders Ltd, 34, Topfield Parade, Crouch End, N8 8PT. (Marked Private & Confidential) to Mr David Abarne.



Accountancy Personnel

Placing Accountants First

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SE1 £25,000 - £30,000 + CAR + BENS

International Shipping and fleet management Group offer Divisional responsibility to a Qualified ACA with 2 years PQE +. The role incorporates management of "Finance function" Division's computer systems, Project Analysis (acquisitions of company's/assets) and deputising for the F.D. etc. Bens Car, STL, Pension, Profit share, Group share, Club membership etc. Ref:GHM/2120

70 Watting St, EC4 Tel:01-236 0657

NEWLY QUALIFIED

SW3 £20,000 + LARGE CO BENEFITS

International Oil Exploration Company offers excellent opportunity for a newly Qualified to get in at the ground level and gain in depth post qualification experience, with a view to taking over one of their subsidiaries of primary importance in the ability to lead a management team and act on own initiative. Ref:CS91

43 Brompron Rd, Knightsbridge, SW3 Tel:01-581 5021

Jonathan Wren EUROPEAN REGIONAL AUDITOR ACA

c£20,000 + banking benefits

Our client, a major US financial services corporation, with its international headquarters in London and a European branch network, wishes to recruit an individual for the above vacancy.

THE CANDIDATE:

Applications are sought from candidates who match the following criteria: Motivated graduate ACA's who have recently qualified, with strong audit skills. First class inter-personal and analytical skills are essential, as is the ability to work within a team environment. 30% European travel is envisaged.

PRINCIPLE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Operational and financial evaluation of the organisation's functional effectiveness.
- To provide written and verbal recommendations regarding audits.
- To propose remedies to any weaknesses or shortfalls found.
- To lead and manage audits/auditors contributing to audit methodology and drafting final reports.
- To establish relationships with business managers and their functions with a view to providing advice and guidance on a wide range of issues.

Career opportunities are excellent both within audit and, in the medium term, elsewhere within the organisation.

Contact Brian Gooch on 01-588 7756 or forward a detailed curriculum vitae.

LONDON HONG KONG SINGAPORE SYDNEY

Jonathan Wren
 Recruitment Consultants
 34 London Wall, London EC2M 6SA, Tel: 01-588 7756

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 A newly formed company which is part of an established group of companies has six new positions in London, Manchester and the Home Counties for sales executives. You will be between 20 and 45 years of age and have a good education, possibly from a retailing or refrigeration background. However, applicants without relevant experience will be considered as full training will be provided. You will negotiate directly as a director/owner level for the installation of our unique and proven product with no competition. These are permanent and prestigious positions with unlimited scope for improvement and promotion throughout the group. For further details please contact:
 The Recruitment Officer, Economical Ltd, 189 Lower Richmond Road Richmond Surrey, TW9 3LH. Tel: 01 878 7765 For an immediate interview.

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 Offering an exciting and rewarding sales, commission security and real opportunity. Full training, generous commission and attractive benefits. Suitable applicants, aged between 24 and 45, can be employed in the area of their choice. (This opportunity at Southampton (023) 61414 or apply to Sun Life of Canada, 150, Cannon Street, London, EC4A 3DF.)

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 Southdowns Ltd, PO Box 2, Baffins, T833 9EZ.

مكتبة الجليل

01-481 4481

LACA

30,000 + Car

Initially, the work will be making activity but will initiate and controlling in two years.

to two weeks duration to be USA should be expected that long working hours are to be expected. In return awards are available in the field.

should write to Fiona address below, or call her for 01-481 7550.

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experience in the field. The base salary will be in the region of £25,000 per annum plus a performance related bonus of investment.

comprehensive Bennett & Nick Root at City, 39-41 Parker Street, E5 8JH.

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حسابات المحاسبين

Forensic Accounting and Litigation Support

As a result of increasing demands for its services, Spicer & Oppenheim, a leading firm of international Chartered Accountants, is expanding its Litigation Support Department. Based at its prestigious City office, the department provides accountancy support for both civil and criminal litigation. The range of work is very demanding and includes carrying out investigations, interviews, writing of witness statements and reports.

We are looking for exceptional people to perform these exceptional roles. Career prospects in this area are excellent and training will be given. Applicants should be both numerate and literate, willing to speak in public and, in the longer term, to give evidence in Court. An inquisitive mind is essential and skills in quantitative and interpretative techniques would be an advantage. Especially for the senior appointments, experience in the financial services industry is desirable.

Opportunities exist at several levels, with salaries ranging from £13,000 to £30,000 or higher for outstanding candidates, depending upon abilities and experience. In addition, there are excellent benefits which include a car at more senior levels.

Enquiries and Applications to Jane E. Wright, Senior Recruitment Officer, Spicer & Oppenheim, Friary Court, 65 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2NP. Telephone: 01 480 7766 ext 4110



Business Analysis

How does a world leader remain at number one in its market?

This is the enviable predicament faced by our client, a South Coast company which leads the world by some considerable distance in its specialist field of consumer electronics.

A certain amount of expansion in Europe is underway, but the company now sees its future as resting upon a combination of maintaining a record of innovation in this market, and expanding its activities into new areas.

Which is where you come in. The need is for someone who can bring sound analysis skills to the investigation of financial data and, indeed, all the factors impacting on the company's business plans. For the right person, this clearly represents an opportunity to develop and add to existing skills, while at the same time enjoying the challenge that comes from being part of a team contributing to new strategies.

Long years of experience as an Analyst aren't necessary. What really matters is your ability and your approach. Your background may well be in Economics (related degree would be useful) or in Accountancy. But you must be business-orientated, numerate and skilled in the use of a PC.

As well as an attractive salary, this position offers you the chance to influence the future of the company that's committed to building on its existing standards of excellence.

To apply, please contact Paul Ballard, Austin Knight Selection, 17 St. Helen's Place, London EC3A 6AS, or telephone him on 01-588 6452 (01-256 6925 evenings/weekends). Please quote reference number 770/PB/88.



ACCOUNTANTS & TAX SPECIALISTS... SALARY ASSESSMENT

PHOTOCOPY AND RETURN TO THE FREEPOST ADDRESS BELOW. Please complete the questions below to obtain an objective assessment of your market worth. We have extensive experience of recruiting for a wide variety of vacancies throughout the U.K. and have built up a comprehensive knowledge of the salary levels that exist. Based on your experience as shown below we will advise you of your relative position within your particular market sector.

PLEASE TICK AS APPROPRIATE:
Qualifications: ACA ACCA ACMA ATII
Age: 20-25 26-30 31-35 36-40

SECTOR OF EXPERIENCE
Public Practice
 Audit Tax Management Consultancy Computer Audit/Consultancy Investigations

Insolvency Corporate Finance General Practice Business Services Training/Lecturing Technical

Industry and Commerce
 Banking Stockbroking Insurance Manufacturing Service Industry Retailing

Major area of experience: _____ No. of years: _____
Current position: _____ Current Salary: _____
Last review: _____ Benefits: _____
Size of employer: Small Medium Large

I have completed the above assessment sheet and would like an evaluation of my current salary worth.
 I would like further information covering: _____ sector _____ location
Surname (Mr/Mrs/Ms): _____ First Name: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____

Home Tel. No: _____ Office Tel. No: (discretion assured) _____
Current employer: _____ Date/Stage qualification(s): _____

PLEASE SEND ME YOUR GUIDE(S) (MAXIMUM OF THREE) ON:
 Moving from a smaller firm, Joining a 'big 8' practice, Want to specialise in tax, Computer services, Interview techniques, First move into management consultancy, Moving as a Manager, General Overseas, Caribbean & Bermuda, Canada, United States, South America, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Hong Kong, Middle East, Europe, Kenya, Channel Islands, First move into Industry & Commerce, Opportunities in the City, Big Bang, Corporate Finance, Fastest route to the top, Banking & Finance, Oil Industry, Tax in Industry/Commerce, Moving from the Inland Revenue, Moving as a manager in tax, Tax in Public Practice.

Please photocopy, complete and return this coupon to Douglas Llambias Associates Ltd., FREEPOST 410 Strand, London WC2R 0BR.

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Deputy Group Taxation Manager

Luton c.£27,000+Car+Benefits

Our client is a leading international industrial products and chemical group which has achieved impressive and sustained worldwide success through strong organic growth and strategic acquisitions. As part of this development they now require a deputy group taxation manager at their new head office.

developed accounting and tax skills. It is essential that applicants have strong interpersonal skills, are self-starters and have the potential to progress to future management positions within the group.

For further information contact Chris Nelson on 01-831 2000 (evenings/weekends 01-785 6545) or write to him at the Taxation Division, Michael Page Partnership, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH, or Vanessa Nelson on (0727) 65813 or write to her at Michael Page Partnership, Centurion House, 136-142 London Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 1SA.



BUSINESS REVIEW
£23,000 + Car + Relocation Survey

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT
to £23,000 + Car + Benefits

PUBLISHING
to £22,000 London

ACQUISITION ACCOUNTANT
£21,000 + Car + Benefits

GROUP ACCOUNTANT
£20,000 Kent

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS
£16,000 Beds

GROUP ACCOUNTANT NOT LESS THAN £25,000
Our client is a well known registered name in the fashion business located in Mayfair London W.1. They seek a Chartered Accountant 25/40 to take full responsibility for the finance function reporting direct to the Managing Director. Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to play a Key Role in the company's commercial development are vital.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT TO £25,000 + BENEFITS
To assume immediate responsibility for all day finance matters including control of a busy accounts department (15 strong) with our clients a magazine publishers part of an extremely successful major communications group. Likely see late 20's / late 30's. Would best suit an accountant (not essentially qualified) with commercial experience and pronounced management ability.

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Blue Chip international Oil company require a qualified ACA, ACCA or CIMA to assume overall responsibility for the integrity of operational costs. Responsibilities will involve providing a comprehensive management information service on all aspects of operating costs; controlling expenditure and meeting group statutory and taxation requirements.

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Global opportunity for a part qualified ACA, ACCA or CIMA to join this leading International Oil company. This is a new position introduced to undertake a series of defined projects designed to improve the accuracy and usefulness of cost information, to facilitate the use of cost systems and to improve the quality of service provided by the cost section.

CONTACT MICHAEL PRICE
WILSON ROWE ASSOCIATES
(AGY)
2ND FLOOR IMPERIAL HOUSE, DOMINION STREET LONDON EC2M 2SA
382 9882

ACP ADMINISTRATIVE & CLERICAL PERSONNEL LIMITED
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Tel: 01-588 8282

ACP ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT
£12,500-£15,000
PRESTIGIOUS AND EXPANDING INTERNATIONAL JEWELLERS

Our clients' Finance Director requires an Assistant Accountant to prepare accounts to trial balance, maintain sales/purchases ledgers on an IBM PC and produce weekly sales reports and analyses. This is a varied role, as part of a young and lively small team, which will also include checking stock and helping in the Shop during busy periods. Candidates, in their 20s, should be well-educated and ideally part qualified with at least 2 years' book-keeping experience, either in a professional firm or commercial organisation. Essential is a sense of humour, an eye for detail plus the flexibility to cover non-financial areas when necessary. Initial salary negotiable £12,500-£15,000 including bonus + contributory pension, free life assurance, free PHI and excellent staff discounts. Applications, in strict confidence, under reference AA 328/77, to the Managing Director.

ADMINISTRATIVE & CLERICAL PERSONNEL LIMITED, (RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS) 3 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, LONDON WC2E 7LU. TELEPHONE 01-588 3588 or 01-588 8676. TELEX 087374. FAX: 01-258 8581.

AUDIT SENIOR/SUPERVISOR

Frankfurt, West Germany
DM 90,000 - 110,000

We are a worldwide Fortune 200 multinational with 51 industrial and commercial units operating throughout Europe. We currently have vacancies within our European Audit Department.

We offer
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- Future possibilities in line functions
- An organisation committed in general to promoting and developing your future
- Constant contact with general management as part of the work content
- Excellent travel conditions
- 6 weeks vacation
- Promotion possibilities whilst still in the Audit Department

We require
- A mature personality
- Age 25-40
- An Accountancy qualification and industrial accountancy or audit experience.
- Practical knowledge of Standard Cost Accounting
- A desire to travel (75% with weekends at home or at an alternative location).

INTERESTED?
Tel Jayne Szimeth between 9.00 and 12.30 hours Central European Time at 49-69-80431
or at Weekend David Thompson 49-6190- 5478

or send your resumé to:
David Thompson, Emhart Corporation Kaiserleistr 51, 6050 Offenbach, West Germany

CORPORATE (SENIOR HEAD) TAX SPECIALIST
£27,000 P.A. Neg
International City Based C/A's

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ACCOUNTANCY / BANKING / FINANCE Related Degrees AREAS: London S/E & S/W England

For complete details and job spec in relation to the above please send a full cv to
JAMES G. McCALLUM, PROF. & EXEC. APPT'S, 66B Albert Road, Wood, Essex. Tel: 01-514 4148

Bank Investigations Level 2/Finalist ACCA/CIMA to £18,000 + Bank Benefits

Our client is an internationally respected UK Merchant Bank with offices in Europe, USA, Australia and the Far East. They now seek a part-qualified accountant at level 2 or finalist stage to train in all aspects of the bank's activities, with a view to moving through to senior management levels.

Part of a small, high profile team, you will help conduct investigations into a number of business areas including:
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* Venture Capital * Investments

You will receive 2 weeks study leave and all fees, plus a generous mortgage subsidy, interest free personal loans and BUPA. Any offer will be unconditional on exam passes. You should be aged under 28, with at least 2 years' accounts experience. Please contact STEVE BICKLEY Ref. 5402
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Continued on next page

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RACING tilt likely to wubush Ascot will...

Ravinella's pace to provide France with classic encore

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips) Following in the footsteps of Miesque a year ago, Ravinella is now named to become the second successive French-trained winner of the General Accident 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket today.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent 2.00 Spring Creek Road. 2.30 Polar Gap. 3.00 Intimate Guest. 3.40 DABAWYAA (nap). 4.15 Merdon Melody. 4.50 Sun Street.

By Michael Seely 2.00 Shehyr. 3.40 DIMINUENDO (nap). 4.15 Master Poley. The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.40 RAVINELLA.

Goings good Draw: no significant advantage 2.00 CRADDOCK ADVERTISING MAY STAKES (3-Y-O: £4,978: 1m 11) (4 runners)

3.0 CRAWLEY WARREN PRETTY POLY STAKES (Listed race: 3-Y-O fillies: £13,112: 1m 20) (8 runners)

FORM MALDOND (3-1) best effort of debut of Miss M (3-1) at Goodwood (2-1) on 22nd, good, Apr 19, 2010, good, Sep 25, 11, at Goodwood.

FORM WANTAGE PARK (3-1) best effort of debut of Miss D (3-1) at Mar (3-1) on 22nd, good, Apr 19, 2010, good, Sep 25, 11, at Goodwood.

2.30 MIESQUE MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £7,688: 1m) (20 runners)

FORM WANTAGE PARK (3-1) best effort of debut of Miss D (3-1) at Mar (3-1) on 22nd, good, Apr 19, 2010, good, Sep 25, 11, at Goodwood.

Course specialists

Table with columns: Trainers, Jockeys, Races, Percent.

HEREFORD

Selections By Mandarin 2.15 Spring Wigton. 2.45 By The Fireside. 3.15 Super Express.

Goings firm

2.15 HOLMER SELLING HURDLE (£847: 2m) (10 runners)

3.45 CANON PYON HANDICAP CHASE (£2,981: 3m 11) (9 runners)

2.15 HIGHLAND SPRING/RIDE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £1,427: 2m 30) (9 runners)

2.15 WESTGATE INSURANCE LONG DISTANCE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,929: 3m 11) (17 runners)

4.55 EBF BROCKHAMPTON HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £560: 3m 11) (7 runners)

Course specialists

Table with columns: Trainers, Jockeys, Races, Percent.

3.40 GENERAL ACCIDENT 1000 GUINEAS STAKES (Group 1: 3-Y-O fillies: £88,308: 1m) (12 runners)

Form guide to the 12 contenders BLUEBOOK (9-0) best Thelshd (9-0) 11 (7) 60yd, group III, £19,356, good, 7 ran.

4.15 MCCARTHY INFORMATION HANDICAP (£7,882: 6f) (16 runners)

4.50 MARSH HANDICAP (£7,583: 2m) (10 runners)

5.30 WHISTBURY NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £1,336: 2m) (13 runners)

7.0 G B MATTHEWS NOVICES HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: £1,186: 3m 11) (8)

8.0 ROCKBOLTON NOVICES HURDLE (£1,772: 2m 6f) (22)

Course specialists TRAINER'S D. Elsworth, 18 winners from 80 runners, 20.0%; J. Gifford, 7 from 36, 19.4%; D. Barons, 10 from 57, 17.5%.

Cecil duo backed Henry Cecil's pair, Diminueno and Bluebook...

Bluebook came in for heavy backing with 11/1 and is now 12/1 from 1/4 while the tote here is 1/4.

Wants to jump trainer to see with his first prep. Bluebook who has more to offer than his first prep.

Booked her place in the season's first hurdle race with a 10/1 chance.

Wants to jump trainer to see with his first prep. Bluebook who has more to offer than his first prep.

Booked her place in the season's first hurdle race with a 10/1 chance.

Wants to jump trainer to see with his first prep. Bluebook who has more to offer than his first prep.

Raider has Weld fined £1,000 Guineas at over Perris Valley

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin The stewards of the Turf Club met at the Curragh yesterday to inquire into the ownership of Perris Valley, winner earlier this month of the Jameson Irish Grand National.

WINGANTON

Selections By Mandarin 5.30 Wood Chisel. 6.0 Shropshire Lad. 6.30 Any Business. 7.0 Gallic Prince. 7.30 Mosof. 8.0 Larchwood.

Course specialists

Table with columns: Trainers, Jockeys, Races, Percent.

ATHLETICS

IAAF move against Budd lessens the threat of a boycott

Stockholm (AP) - Recent action on Zola Budd has virtually eliminated the chance of an Olympic boycott...

International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) for his involvement in the handling of the Budd case...

was "clear evidence the BAAF was aware of Zola Budd's antics," Ramsay said...

RUGBY LEAGUE

Lindop in charge for the final time

Fred Lindop, the referee of this year's Challenge Cup final on Saturday...

Lindop was back at Wembley as Hull KR beat Hull 10-5. Despite his retirement as a match official...

Search for the top talent

The British Amateur Rugby League Association will again be searching for the country's best talent...

WEIGHTLIFTING



Power and the glory: Suleymanoglu heaves his way to gold (Photograph: Colin Shepherd)

New name for record books

Naim Suleymanoglu, of Turkey, celebrated his return to the international arena after more than a year in spectacular fashion...

66-year history of the competition. Suleymanoglu fought off the challenge of Stefan Popov...

and the world record to all of them," he said. "This world record proves that all Bulgarian officials who claimed that I was finished were wrong..."

HOCKEY

Barber returns for Great Britain

Paul Barber, a short corner expert, returns to the Great Britain squad which takes part in the Sultan Azlan Shah Invitational tournament...

Ulstermen, Martin and McConnell, who have other commitments with the combined Irish team, Pomer and Thompson...

EQUESTRIANISM

Widmer gives up top post

Friz Widmer, the secretary-general of the Fédération Equestre Internationale, the ruling body for equestrian sports since 1976...

BOWLS

Blair and Brassey get the call for Masters

George Adrain, of Scotland, and Peter Fong, of Fiji, have withdrawn, for business reasons, from the World Masters Invitational tournament at Worthing...

The singles are preceded by a four-day 'training' knockout event involving the world players...

VOLLEYBALL

England are still well adrift

England, who cannot now improve on their third-place placing in the European Nations Cup...

James Smith, who has broken into the England team within the last year, admits that some of the nations here are now out of England's reach...

England face Greece B today, Israel tomorrow and wind up their programme with a return match against Cyprus...

WATER POLO

Moorhouse criticizes ASA ban on players

Stephen Moorhouse, an English international, has reacted angrily to the decision of the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) to ban indefinitely the playing of water polo in England...

Moorhouse, who plays for the national league, said the ASA is not advocating that they should be left out but they have been punished at the expense of the whole sport...

FOOTBALL

Deacon wants Wimbledon to face charges

John Deacon, the Portsmouth chairman, is to continue his campaign to lodge an FA disciplinary charge against Wimbledon, and their defender, Eric Young...

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Table of sports results for Tuesday, including Baseball, Football, Tennis, and other events.

TENNIS

Iranian qualifier gives Becker an amusing work-out

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Hamburg

The German championships were true to type yesterday; up to a point, anyway. Unfortunately, the draw was so unusually weak that the quality of the tennis could not match the quality of the sunshine...

Tuesday, Bahrami left Iran at the age of 24 and settled in Paris, but has recurrent problems with visas...

Bahrami is fun before he does anything. He is 5ft 10in tall but a square-jawed 120lb. He is brawny and brawny-looking. He has a receding hairline, a balding crown, but a luxuriant hand-to-hand mustache...

His best opponent will be a distinguished clay-court specialist of a decade ago, Guillermo Vilas, who won the German title in 1978...

Well, his centre court match with Becker was a joyous birthday present. Bahrami's dreams were happening.

LTA adopts hard sell

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), anxious to promote tennis in the wake of Wimbledon's second-rate nations, launched a hard-sell policy yesterday...

lan Peacock, the LTA's executive director, noted that, "The British tennis scene is all too often devoid of British players", then outlined a five-year improvement plan...

YACHTING

Foreign entrants to be restricted

On a day of further mixed fortunes for the British Olympic crew competing at the French Prix Olympic Regatta, Stuart Chidley and the 470 world champions, Nigel Buckley and Peter Newland, lose their leads...

their early leads during racing at Hyeres yesterday, it was again left to the British crew...

Rod Carr, the British Olympic coach, announced yesterday that the Fines, Flying Dutchman, Torneo, Class, Soling, and women's 470 classes will be limited to overseas teams...

In addition, the men's 470 class will be open only to British crews following restrictions on foreign competitors planned to influence the national trials...

This extra money is to provide two intensive training camps at Weymouth for the Olympic sailors in July and August in a final build-up.

After the failure of Chidley and Buckley to capitalize on...

FOR THE RECORD

Table of sports records and results for various events including Baseball, Football, Tennis, and other sports.

Advertisement for 'Worth' magazine, featuring a large 'Worth' logo and text about comparative obscurity and sports news.

Critical crowd provoke Qadir

From Richard Streeton Bridgetown, Barbados

Abdul Qadir, the Pakistan leg-spin bowler, punched a spectator on the edge of the field during the tense, closing stages of the third Cable and Wireless Test match between West Indies and Pakistan here yesterday, which West Indies won by two wickets to level the series one-all.

A disappointed Qadir, who had had a leg-before appeal rejected in the previous over, returned to long leg and briefly squatted on his haunches inside the low boundary fence.

There was a lot of booing and shouting at him, and he stood up and exchanged heated words with about 20 spectators around him, then threw a left boot which placed a spectator's jaw before Hafiz Shahid, a Pakistan team colleague who was walking round the ground, pulled the player away.

The match was held up as the Pakistan manager, Intikhab Alam, and a police inspector went to where the angry spectators were milling around on the edge of the field. Albert Auguste, the spectator involved, was advised by other bystanders to lodge a complaint, and he was led into the pavilion by a police sergeant. Qadir was moved to deep third man and replaced by Saleem Jaffer.

Qadir had just snatched his cap angrily from David Archer, the umpire, after an over during which the entire Pakistan team surrounded the official and protested when he turned down the leg-before appeal against Dujon with the score 187 for seven. Javed Miandad, in particular, could be seen shouting at the umpire. Six or seven Pakistanis were on their knees pleading, and the match was delayed for five minutes.

The crowd started booing and jeering, and the barracking continued unabated as Qadir walked to his fielding position. Qadir is understood to have complained he was being sworn at. Other spectators said that Auguste and others had been shouting: "Why don't you bowl properly," when Qadir seemed to lose his temper and approached Auguste, who was subsequently taken to hospital for an X-ray.

Match report, page 42

Pallister shores up England

From Stuart Jones Football Correspondent Budapest

Hungary 0 England 0

Bobby Robson yesterday found a potential answer to a problem that threatens to dismantle England's challenge in the European championship. Gary Pallister, lifted out of the second division and into the international arena, could scarcely have been more secure or assured during his debut as a central defender here in the Nép Stadium.

In the absence of Butcher, who will seemingly not be available for the June tournament, Watson and Wright, England's manager was left with no other choice but to include the 22-year-old from Middlesbrough into his already experimental line-up. Pallister, relishing his sudden promotion, responded with a performance that was unexpectedly encouraging, though there will be more severe tests ahead.

Robson agreed with an assessment offered on television that the youngster was "worth a million dollars." Yet there was little else to open his eyes in the first-ever draw between the two nations. "We lacked that final bite and a cutting edge," he said. "Our appetite was missing but that was Bryan Robson's best game for six months. Now I know 18 members of the squad for West Germany. There is room for only two floaters."

Bryan Robson was a typically tireless and forceful leader, particularly after England had suffered an awkward opening. Hoddle, brought on again midway through the second half as one of four England substitutes, added glorious touches of grace and skill to an otherwise uninspired occasion staged in front of some 26,500 spectators.

Pearce was once more painfully exposed for his ineptness at left back even before he retired through injury. Beardsley and Lineker have never been so ineffective as the spearhead. Waddle was not yet fit enough to perform on such a stage and Steven's contribution on the other flank was only marginally superior.

Rearranged and unusually inexperienced, England's start was predictably tentative. Temporarily frozen in mind, movement and understanding, their technique was frayed around the edges. Nowhere were the deficiencies more

apparent than in an especially youthful back four which, apart from Anderson, had collected a mere 10 caps between them.

They were vulnerable to everything designed by the Hungarians and by the influential Detari in particular. A sweeping pass inside the full back, a long ball through the middle or a burst of speed down the flank broke their formation. In such circumstances, Pallister had no right to be the most reliable figure.

Adams, his senior partner, was anything but. Arsenal's 21-year-old captain was significantly fortunate not to be punished for his sequence of errors, all within the first 25 minutes. He lost his shadow, Vincez, deep inside the area, failed grotesquely to control a chip with his chest and then blatantly felled Detari in full flight.

Although Detari picked himself up and struck the ensuing free kick against the foot of a post, Woods otherwise had no need to take action and his afternoon as Shilton's deputy was thereafter increasingly comfortable.

They could reflect on the creation of several promising openings. Amid the early difficulties, for example, Lineker's chase for McMahon's inviting pass was ended illegitimately by Szendrei, Hungary's goalkeeper. No penalty was awarded by a West German referee.

Once Adams had revived from his personal disarray, England recovered from their collective confusion and were never again in genuine danger.

McMahon growing accustomed to his new role as the midfield foil for Bryan Robson, should have put England ahead a few minutes before the whistle. He delighted fully by his captain's disguised chip, he could achieve no more, from a narrow angle than attempt to dislodge the knee-cap of Szendrei.

Pallister almost crowned his day shortly before the hour, but climbing alone to meet Waddle's corner, he nodded wide to his own despair.

HUNGARY: Szendrei (Molnari), Kozma (Kapocs), D. Szilagyi, D. Szilagyi (Hornos), T. Balog (Vass), A. Bath (Freyer), (sub: Varga, M. K. Kaptai) (Gyarmati), (sub: Kovacs, Hornos), G. Garab (Remeny), J. Ficz (Hornos), L. Detari (Erdos) (Frankfurt), V. Vincez (Frankfurt). ENGLAND: C. Woods (Preston), V. Anderson (Manchester United), S. Pearce (Nottingham Forest), G. Stevens (Everton), I. Stewart (Aston Villa), G. Beardsley (Liverpool), G. Pallister (Middlesbrough), B. Robson (Manchester United), S. McMahon (Liverpool), P. Beardsley (Liverpool), M. Walters (Halesley, Monaco), G. Lineker (Barcelona), G. Waddle (Tottenham Hotspur), G. Hoddle (Monaco). Referee: K-H Tritschler (West Germany).



Crying out for a goal: Lineker goes down in Hungary's penalty area

England must come into line

From David Miller Budapest

Everyone knows how the England defence will play, what their formation will be. Detmar Cramer observed at half-time yesterday: "There are never any surprises," he said. The least surprise of all is that England as a consequence are often made to look inflexible.

Cramer, formerly one of West Germany's leading coaches and currently a close adviser to Franz Beckenbauer, was saying what is, like England's defence, transparently obvious. They play to an out-of-date formation, four men marking zonally as they did in Ramsey's day and as everyone in the English first division has done since.

The 4-4-2 formation is inevitably going to be a limitation against the 1-2-3-2 formation which almost every prominent team in the world is now employing; for example, Hungary.

A sweeper and two close marking defenders are nowadays sufficient to cope with the two-man attack presented by almost every opposition. The key to the game is now mobility in midfield, with players breaking forward into attack. England seldom had anyone in the first hour other than Lineker or Beardsley making runs into the penalty area, though Robson was always looking for the 20 yard shot.

It has been necessary for several years, in my opinion for England to conform if they are to have real international prospects. The argument against changing the system, as Ron Greenwood once again commented this week, is that nobody in club football is accustomed to playing with a sweeper. Both Greenwood and Don Revie toyed with the idea when England manager, and with Wilkins as sweeper, but abandoned it.

Looking at the alarming, intermittent incompetence of England's defence in the first 20 minutes — a vulnerability seen against both West Germany and Holland this season — a change cannot come soon enough.

England's defence, with or without Butcher, cannot be guaranteed to survive against the fast footwork of clever forwards such as they will meet again in June. They were fortunate to survive against the exciting Detari, back home from Frankfurt, yesterday.

At the risk of learning expensively, the European championships should — and always should — be used as a building platform for the World Cup. Greenwood and Revie both were reluctant to do so. Yet good players, such as Hansen, for example, or Robson can learn to play to any system.

There must surely be two players in England who could learn to be close markers over a season of international play,

instead of zonal markers. I fear for our World Cup qualification against Sweden in the autumn.

The advance of liberating an extra man for midfield cannot be over-emphasized. There were regular occasions yesterday, when England's rearguard was unemployed against two opponents. There is even talk in the England camp of having an extra defender in the midfield quartet, presumably at the expense of Waddle or Barnes (when fit), to protect the weakness of the central defenders: thus committing six men, including the goalkeeper, primary to defence.

England are short enough of the creative flair in midfield to release the abilities of Lineker and Beardsley, without sacrificing someone who can pass the ball. There has not been a play-maker since Brooking, and before him Peters and Charlton: given Hoddle has never fulfilled his promise.

The boy from Bowral tells all

By John Woodcock

Like many public figures, Don Bradman was an essentially private person. For that matter, he still is. The publication, therefore, of *The Bradman Albums*, nearly 800 pages of cuttings relating to his amazing cricketing career, is an unexpected windfall.

"The keeping of scrapbooks in a variety of forms became something of a hobby indulged in by my mother, my wife, some relatives, a cricket-loving brother-in-law, even in later years by my library agent in London, and quite incredibly by cricket-lovers who were complete strangers. As the collection increased in size so did my possession of odd pieces of cricketiana. Bradman says in his introduction to *The Bradman Albums*."

Becoming aware of the existence of such memorabilia, the chief librarian of the state library of South Australia eventually persuaded Bradman, after working on him for some years, to make the whole collection over to the library, which is where it now is in a magnificent bound leather volumes... available for public scrutiny and historical purposes."

The condensed version has been rubber-stamped by the great man himself. Unlike one or two biographies of him, it has his full blessing. In the first of numerous interludes, Bradman says that after leaving school at 14 (in 1923) he devoted a whole summer to tennis, owing to the influence of a favourite uncle.

Memories of the bodyline series

But by the time he was 17 he was scoring 300 in the final of the Tom Mack Cup, out in the bush. He improved on that in next year's final by making 320. From start to finish the march of triumph is almost unbroken. The bodyline series (1932-33) he describes as "a temporary hiccup". "In retrospect," he writes in another of his notes, "perhaps I can take satisfaction in saying that my own part in events may have been largely responsible for outlawing tactics so foreign to cricket."

Thousands of cuttings have been reproduced, illustrating every yard of the way: telegrams, letters, photographs, articles, scorecards, posters, menu cards, theatre programmes, diary entries and much else.

On Wednesday, August 20, 1930, the fourth day of the fifth Test match at the Oval, he wrote in his diary: "continued. Difficult, dangerous, wicket. Archie and I made a stand. I was given out caught by Duckworth off Larwood for 232 but did not hit the ball."

"I scored 98 before lunch, and broke all previous records for a series of Tests. Others, batted well. Three cheers for Hobbs when he came out. To the Alhambra Theatre that night to see 'All Quiet on the Western Front'."

Insatiable appetite for run-making

Archie, of course, was Archie Jackson, and it was Jack Hobbs's last Test match.

The extent to which, by his achievements, Bradman dwarfed all around him, the hero worship to which he was subjected; the insatiable appetite for runs (one scorecard shows him to have made 260 for Arthur Mailey's team against Western Ontario, the opposition having been bowled out for 88); the scrupulous determination with which he conducted his business affairs; the composure when, in 1931, he looked like signing for Accrington in the Lancashire League; it is all there.

There is a lot of Neville Cardus and, from Australia's 1938 tour of England, a fair selection from *The Times*: "Men and Women Offer Blood: Nation is Watching His Fight; King's Personal Interest" were headlines blazoned across one piece in the *Sydney Telegraph* when Bradman underwent an operation for acute appendicitis at the end of the 1934 tour. King George V asked for regular bulletins to be sent to Balmoral.

Bradman himself was not best suited by this. "As a private man and citizen, I always preferred to think of myself just as plain Don Bradman, the boy from Bowral," he writes by way of a valediction. Those of his marvellous admirers who can afford it will understand, by acquiring *The Bradman Albums*, how extraordinarily difficult it must have been to do so.

Davis sweeps Drago aside to move into semi-finals

By Steve Acteson

Steve Davis, the World No. 1, required just 15 minutes yesterday to complete a 13-4 win over Tony Drago, of Malta, and move into the Embassy world snooker championship semi-finals for the sixth year running.

The fact that he has also reached the final each time, winning three to follow his first world title in 1981, will occupy the thoughts of his next two opponents.

Davis's priorities yesterday were to make sure he could book time on one of the practice tables and to convince himself that, at the semi-final stages, the tournament was only half-way completed and not nearing its end.

Drago, aged 22, was a far more cheerful loser against Davis than he had been following their last meeting at the 1986 United Kingdom championships. There he took Davis to the final frame of their quarter-final before squandering a chance to win by missing the final yellow.

It took him the best part of a year to recover but yesterday he said: "This time it has taken me only half-an-hour. I got beat 13-4, so no complaints. Steve is not unbeatable, he's just too good."

Davis led 12-4 overnight but could have won during the final frame on Tuesday evening — only to snooker himself on the final red.

Earlier on Tuesday, his dominance had allowed him to score 271 points without reply during a period which began with a run to the blue of 53 in frame six and ended with a break of 69 to begin frame nine.

Yesterday his break of 60, his eleventh half century of the match, finished the job. He said: "Once you have reached the semi-finals you're still only half-way through. You should have played eight sessions but there are eight more to go to the title and if you're feeling drained at that stage you've had it." Jimmy White, the second

seed, once again showed his dislike for morning play when, after taking the first three frames to stretch his winning run to nine, and his lead to 9-1, he began throwing his cue and a series of errors were duly punished. His opponent, Tony Knowles, the No. 7 seed, compiled breaks of 52, 68, 124, 38, 32, to win five of the next six games.

Terry Griffiths, of Wales, awaits the winner of that match in the semi-finals. The 1979 world champion beat the world No. 3, Neal Foulds, 13-9, by winning four frames in a row.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: S. Davis (Eng) 13-4 A. Drago (Malta) 12-4. Frame scores (Davis first) 68-22, 20-73, 73-22, 22-75, 75-24, 70-20, 69-14, 75-22, 70-57, 62-59, 64-12, 86-13, 81-86, 61-21. C. Griffiths (Wales) 13-9 T. Knowles (Wales) 12-8. Frame scores (Griffiths first) 31-70, 62-39, 88-78, 73-47, 31-80, 9-70, 7-59, 40-84, 67-71, 83-34, 54-67, 20-81, 52-89, 100-27, 77-17, 80-17, 30-73, 12-62, 16-61, 0-75, J. White (Eng) leads A. Knowles (Eng) 12-10. Frame scores (White first) 52-62, 12-62, 52-62, 12-62, 102-11, 80-39, 84-37, 78-42, 78-30, 81-80, 80-15, 58-45, 1-81, 88-18, 8-78, 0-12, 108-15, 55-65, 32-65, 55-65, 17-12, 38-65, 61-31, 48-70, 95-43, 77-24, 22-65, 54-40, 24-99, 97-7, 68-20.

Woosnam scrambles to victory

Scottsdale, Arizona (AP) — Greg Norman, of Australia, sank an 18-foot putt for a birdie on the first hole of a sudden-death play-off to earn himself and his partner, Ian Woosnam, of Wales, a one-stroke victory over Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino, of the United States, in the \$300,000 (\$160,000) Desert Scramble, an experimental tournament made for cable television.

The victory was worth \$100,000 (about £53,480) each to Norman and Woosnam, and they also shared a bonus of \$50,000 (\$26,740) for winning the final hole. Nicklaus and Trevino each received \$25,000 (£13,370) in the better-ball stroke-play competition, the final nine holes of which were televised live.

"I'm sure that's what people wanted to see — a great finish," Norman said. "We were far behind after 13, but I wasn't thinking of quitting. I told Ian that if we made a few quick birdies, we could tie things up."

Woosnam, 38, sank a 10-foot putt for a birdie on the first hole of a sudden-death play-off to earn himself and his partner, Ian Woosnam, of Wales, a one-stroke victory over Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino, of the United States, in the \$300,000 (\$160,000) Desert Scramble, an experimental tournament made for cable television. The victory was worth \$100,000 (about £53,480) each to Norman and Woosnam, and they also shared a bonus of \$50,000 (\$26,740) for winning the final hole. Nicklaus and Trevino each received \$25,000 (£13,370) in the better-ball stroke-play competition, the final nine holes of which were televised live.

Torrance reluctant to stay in distinguished company

By Mitchell Platts Golf Correspondent

The Algarve, Portugal Sam Torrance tees off in the first round of the Portuguese Open on the Quinta do Lago course here today, hoping to expel himself from an exclusive club.

Torrance revealed that, like Harry Vardon, Sam Snead, Ben Hogan, Peter Alliss, Tony Jacklin and Bernhard Langer, he is suffering from the putting yips, an involuntary movement of the hands which causes a player to twitch a putt.

In 1985, Torrance was hailed as the hero when he nervously holed a putt of 20 feet on the eighteenth green at The Belfry to secure for Europe a famous victory over the United States in the Ryder Cup. But he believes that the Ryder Cup match of last year may have created his current affliction.

"I started at the European Open last September and I think the thought of playing in the Ryder Cup may have been behind it," said Torrance. "Physically I am in tremendous condition, and as cool as a cucumber when it comes to hitting any other shot. But when I stand over a putt I feel faint at times, my hands start to shake and I haven't a clue how hard I am going to hit the ball."

"I was a broken man after two rounds of the Madrid Open last week because I hit the ball close to the hole, missed putt after putt, and only just made the half-way cut. I shot 66 on the third day but I still had 34 putts and in the final round I had only one single putt. If the situation does not improve then I may need to consult a sports psychologist."

Another Henry will not be too far away from the minds of the golfers this week. The treasured memory of Sir Henry Cotton, who died in December, lingers in The Algarve where he is buried, near his beloved Penina Course.

The Portuguese officials have not only doubled the prize fund to £200,000 but, in honour of the three-times Open champion, have instituted a special prize for the leading player aged 25 or under. He will receive the Sir Henry Cotton trophy and £2,000.

Antonio Carnomo Santos, organizer of the tournament, said: "Sir Henry did so much for golf in Portugal and we wanted to introduce a trophy in his memory. It will be played for annually and we have invited his step-daughter, Chicki, to be here at the weekend for the presentation."

De Savary's hydrofoil plan is foiled by Fay

By Barry Pickthall

New Zealand yesterday closed the door on Peter de Savary's plans to contest the America's Cup with a 65-foot hydrofoil a week after welcoming the British challenge.

The about-face follows a meeting in Annapolis last weekend between the British designers and their New Zealand counterparts. It was then that Michael Fay and his New Zealand group learned that the British boat, which de Savary planned to airlift to San Diego for the challenger trials in August, does not conform to the dimensions of their own 90-foot monohull.

It is apparent that Fay is holding de Savary to an agreement, made at a meeting between all potential challengers in New York last December, that the boats must conform to the principle measurements of New Zealand's K-Boat challenger.

The logistical problems of building such a boat in Britain and flying it to America before August are enormous.

Iain Murray, the 18-foot skill world champion from Australia who led Kevin Parry's unsuccessful defence of the America's Cup against Dennis Conner last year, yesterday issued a challenge to compete against Fay.

Tour date for Imran

The West Indies touring cricket team will face Imran Khan twice more within days of arriving in England.

Imran, who has inspired Pakistan's tour of the Caribbean, is to captain the Duchesses of Norfolk's side against the West Indians at Arundel on Sunday week, May 8, three days after playing for Clive Lloyd's side against the West Indies at Uxbridge, in aid of the Commonwealth Society for the Deaf.

DUCHESS OF NORFOLK'S XI: P. W. G. Parker (Sussex), C. T. Radley (Middlesex), G. E. B. Rice (Scotland), Imran Khan (Pakistan), capt., G. M. Wall (Sussex), D. E. Amies (ex-Warwickshire), I. J. Gould (Sussex), S. Warner (Cambridge) and D. Lindwall (ex-Kent). P. G. Snow (ex-Surrey), A. M. Waggoner (Sussex).

Seoul bound

The consistent excellence of the Welsh high-board diver, Robert Morgan, has led to his being notified already that his place in the Olympic Games team for Seoul is assured.

Morgan won the bronze medal at the recent European diving cup tournament.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Tour date for Imran

The West Indies touring cricket team will face Imran Khan twice more within days of arriving in England.

Roche D-day

Paris (AFP) — Specialists treating the cyclist, Stephen Roche, are to make a final decision early next month on whether or not the Irishman will be able to take part in the Tour of France. Roche, who is still suffering from a nagging knee injury despite an operation last November, will be told the decision on May 10.

Welsh misery

The Football Association of Wales has failed with a new initiative to persuade the Sports Council to reconsider its decision to reduce the Association's grant.

Donovan goes

Alun Donovan, the Cardiff centre, is to retire from first class Rugby Union after leading his club on their tour of New Zealand next month.

60-day ban

Greg Brimble, of New Zealand, who played Rugby Union again for Cinderford less than 24 hours after being sent off, has been banned for 60 days.

Chance trip

The Rugby League is to give Steve Hampson, the injured Wigan full back, the chance to figure in this summer's Great Britain tour to Australia. Hampson is presently out of action with a broken arm, but the League said last night they were planning to fly him out to Australia in mid-June if he makes an anticipated recovery during the next six weeks.

Cash incentive

Prize-money totalling £2,000 is on offer to anyone who breaks a world, European or Commonwealth record at the three-day Speedo swimming meeting in Cardiff from April 30 to May 2.

Cure puts feeling back into Walker's swing

By Patricia Davies

A golfer will go to almost any extreme to improve his or her game, and the combination of surgical hose and a football has worked wonders for Michelle Walker.

Walker, the professional at The Warren, near Chelmsford, made one of her occasional forays on to the women's tour yesterday, and led the Ford Ladies Classic at Woburn after a first round of 69, six under par. Two shots behind was Tania Aibitol, a Spanish rookie, with Laura Davies, the star turn, a further shot behind, alongside Suzanne Strudwick and Gillian Stewart, the defending champion.

Walker, who spent last week teaching rather than practising, said she was excited about her golf again after a brief encounter with David Leadbetter, Nick Faldo's golfing guru, at a clinic last year.

"David impressed me with the sense of what he said, and since then I've been having regular sessions with Dennis Pugh at Wanstead, who uses the same method," she said. "They tell you what you should feel like when you swing the club and they give you exercises that help you reproduce that feel."

De Savary's hydrofoil plan is foiled by Fay

New Zealand yesterday closed the door on Peter de Savary's plans to contest the America's Cup with a 65-foot hydrofoil a week after welcoming the British challenge.

The about-face follows a meeting in Annapolis last weekend between the British designers and their New Zealand counterparts. It was then that Michael Fay and his New Zealand group learned that the British boat, which de Savary planned to airlift to San Diego for the challenger trials in August, does not conform to the dimensions of their own 90-foot monohull.

Jarvis's three-year ban

Alan Jarvis, the former race-horse trainer, has been disqualified for three years following a Jockey Club inquiry yesterday. Jarvis trained at Royston, Hertfordshire, but was forced to move to a smaller yard in Epsom when he faced financial difficulties.

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